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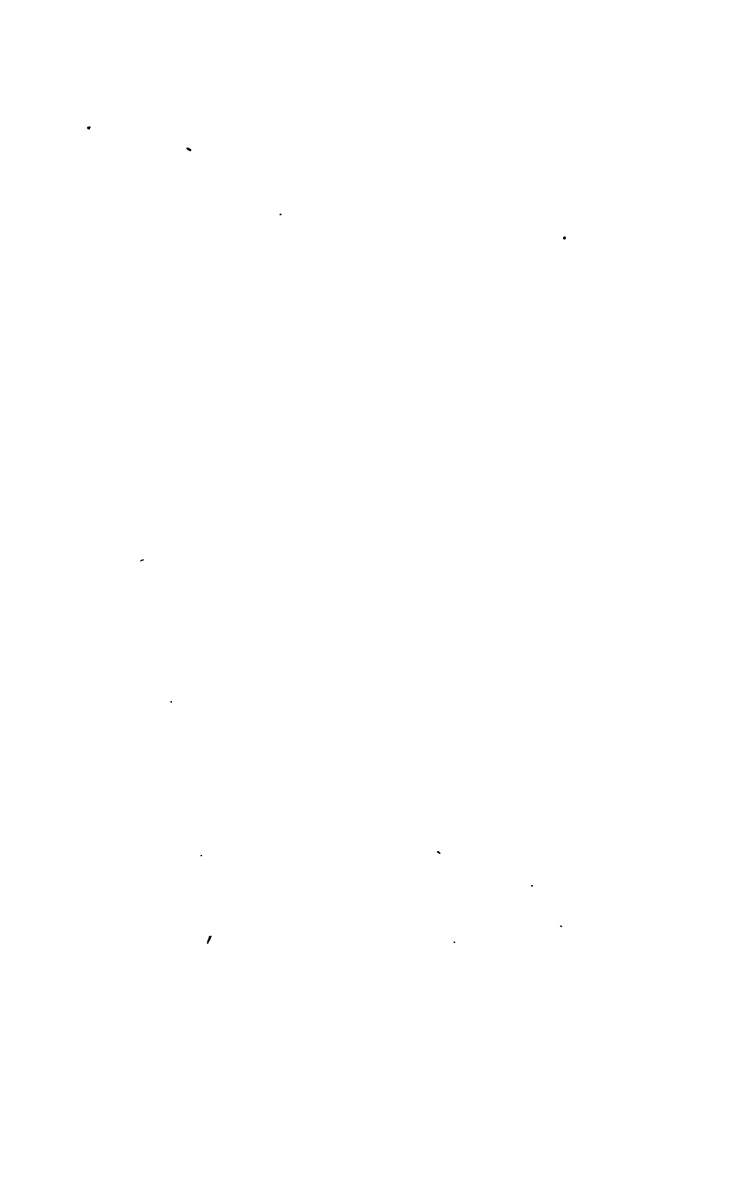


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THE RUBICON.



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84 1831.
THE RUBICON;

OR,

HISTORICAL ALLUSIONS FAMILIARIZED,

IN SKETCHES OF

EARLY ROMAN HISTORY.

—◆—
By A LADY.



LONDON :

J. SOUTER, SCHOOL LIBRARY,

73, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

—
1830.


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LONDON :
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P R E F A C E.

AMONG the many excellent historical works which have already appeared, and which are still continually issuing from the press, expressly written for young persons, there are few, if any, entirely suited to the capacities of children. The smaller abridgments generally put into their hands are merely short statements of dry facts, without any introduction of those traits of character and amusing particulars which render history so attractive to the young mind. It is true that many well-selected collections of anecdotes are to be met with, fully calculated to fix the *attention of children*, but which, while they *amuse and instruct* in a degree, do not sufficiently

carry on unbroken the chain of history—they are unconnected links which the childish mind does not unite. The more voluminous works are generally written in terms too abstruse for a very youthful comprehension, and contain circumstantial accounts of many events, always unnecessary, and often improper for children to be acquainted with. In the hope of, in some measure, supplying this deficiency to the children under the writer's own superintendence, she was induced to put the following pages together, and the possibility that what has been found useful to a few may become more extensively beneficial, prompts her to submit them to the public eye.



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THE RUBICON.



CHAPTER I.

"MAMMA," said Philip Stratton, looking up with a puzzled, anxious countenance, as his mother entered the room, where he was sitting with his sister, seemingly engaged in studying a map of Italy, which, with several thick volumes, lay upon a table before them. "Mamma, I hope you are coming to sit here, as I am very much in want of your assistance."

"I am very willing to give you my assistance, my dear boy," replied Mrs. Stratton, "but it must be at another time, for your papa is now ready to hear your Latin lessons."

"Then Anne, as I must be off," said Philip, *jumping up*, "will you tell mamma all our diff

culties, and when I have done with papa, I shall come back to hear the explanation she has given you."

Away ran Philip, and his mother, addressing her little girl, who looked even more puzzled than her brother had done, asked what the weighty concern was.

"Mamma, it is the Rubicon ; I cannot understand the Rubicon."

"The Rubicon, my love, is the name of a small river in the North of Italy."

"Yes, mamma, so Philip says, and he shewed it to me in this map ; but what could a river have to do with his drawing ? that is what I cannot understand."

"Nor I neither, Anne, at present ; though, perhaps, if you were to tell me all that has happened between you and your brother, I might both understand it myself, and enable you to do so too ; but first fetch me my work bag, that I may not waste any time."

Anne, being quickly returned with the work bag, seated herself by her mamma's side, and began her story.

"*You know, mamma, that next Monday week will be cousin Mary's birth-day, and we are to spend the whole day with her ; as both Philip*

and I love her very much, we wished to take her some present. We were a long time in fixing what it should be, but at last we are determined to take something of our own making, which, perhaps, she might like as well as any thing bought."

"That I am sure she would, my dear. But you seem a long way off the Rubicon."

"Ah! mamma," said the little girl, laughing, "you often tell me I should not wish for the end of a story when I am only at the beginning."

"Very true," said her mother, "I will wait patiently."

"Well! mamma, we consulted for a long time, and at last we settled, that as Philip draws so very well"—

"Not very well, my dear Anne," interrupted her mother, "but very tidily for a boy of his age."

"I do not think you have seen his last beautiful drawing, mamma," said Anne eagerly. "Indeed that is well done, Mr Evans said it was, and, as he is his master, he must be a good judge, if I am not. I will fetch it for you, mamma, for I am sure you will call that well done, and you know he is only eleven years old."

"*You need not fetch it now, Anne; Philip will I dare say, shew it to me by and by, or you may*

have that pleasure another time : at present, go on with your story, which you seem to have forgotten in your hurry to praise Philip's drawing."

"Where did I leave off? Oh! I remember. Well, we settled to make a small paper case or portfolio; I am to make it up, and bind it neatly with gold paper. Philip is to draw some pretty landscapes for the outside covers. This morning we bought a sheet of card-board, and Philip began to cut it out; just as he had cut off the first piece, I saw that he was making it smaller than the pattern. I shewed him his mistake, but he said it was too late to alter it, for he had passed the Rubicon. I asked him what he meant, and he talked of Julius Cæsar, and Pompey the Great; still I did not understand him, so he fetched the Roman History, and said I had better read the story; but it was very long, and the words were very difficult, and I was tired of trying to find out the Rubicon, and" —

"And Philip was impatient, I suppose," said her mother. "Oh no, dear mamma, he was very good-natured and patient, but I suppose I was very stupid."

"*Perhaps not, my love,*" said Mrs. Stratton: "*there is not any stupidity in a little girl not entering into the meaning of books written for*

grown-up people, and Philip's explanation might not be very clear ; there is a great difference between being able to understand a thing one's self and making another person understand it. As I am more used to teaching little girls than Philip, perhaps I may succeed better."

" '*I have passed the Rubicon*' was the speech of a celebrated Roman General, when he had crossed that river, and was leading his army towards Rome. The Roman history abounds in expressions, applied, in the present day, to passing events, and understood by all persons who have studied ancient history. I do not, however, think Philip was quite correct in his manner of applying this celebrated saying ; but of this you shall judge when I have related the anecdote which gave rise to it. Julius Cæsar"—

"Mamma, instead of beginning with Julius Cæsar, which was in the middle of the history, I should like it much better if you would tell me all the classical expressions, for so Philip called that about the Rubicon, taken from the History of Rome."

"That I cannot promise to do, Anne: but I will, if you wish it, give you a slight sketch of *the Roman History*, which will enable you to *understand* many allusions in common use."

Philip's explanation is
is a great difference
understand a thing;
or person understand
nothing little girls
would better."

"Julius" was the name
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was leading his army
and history about
the present day, to
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"Julius Caesar"——

beginning with the
middle of the history
better if you would
expressions, for so I
"Julius", taken from

wise to do, Anne:
you a slight sketch
which will enable
us in common

"That is just what I mean, mamma."

"Rome, my dear, which you often hear mentioned as having been such a beautiful city, and which is still so curious for the remains of splendid buildings, was at first only inhabited by a few shepherds, who, having chosen a leader, built themselves huts, and surrounded them by a mud wall. These huts in time grew into the large, powerful, and celebrated city of Roma, as it was then called, and these shepherds became warriors, whose descendants filled the whole world with their renown. It is said that a Trojan prince, named Æneas, saved himself, his father, and his little son, from the flames which destroyed the city of Troy, and with a small band of his countrymen settled in a city of Italy; this city was called Alba. One of the kings of Alba, named Amulius, usurped the whole kingdom, of which his brother Numitor should have had a share; confined that brother, and, seizing the children of Numitor's only daughter, placed them in a small cradle on the river Tiber, in hopes that they would be destroyed by the winds and waves. Contrary to *his expectations*, the cradle was blown on shore, *and found by a shepherd named Faustus*. This *man pitied the babes*, who were twin boys, and

took them to his wife, who nursed them kindly. The old fables say these children were suckled by a she-wolf, which ancient authors tell us only alluded to the name of Faustus's wife being Lupa, which is Latin for wolf, or to her disposition being wolf-like. However this may be, the boys grew up strong, active young men, and learned from Faustus their own history. Collecting their friends, they took their grandfather out of prison, replaced him upon the throne of Alba, and determined to build a new city, at a little distance, for themselves and followers."

"The first part of your story was very like that of my favourite, Moses, mamma: he was put into a little cradle upon the river Nile. I hope these two princes proved as good as he did: that was the only way they could shew gratitude to God for preserving them in so wonderful a manner."

"I am afraid, Anne, you will find no resemblance in the characters of Moses and these two brothers, whatever you may find in their history. Do you recollect for what Moses is so remarkable?"

"Oh! yes, mamma, for his humility and his kindness towards the discontented Israelites."

"I shall continue my story then," said he

mother, "and you will see how far Romulus acted humbly and kindly. The two brothers having collected their friends, each wished to choose the spot upon which to build the new city. After some time spent in disputing, they agreed, as was the custom at that time, to decide by the flight of birds. Each placed himself upon an eminence. Remus first discovered four vultures, and Romulus a short time after saw eight. A fresh contention now arose, Remus claiming his right, as having seen the birds first, and Romulus insisting upon his claim, from having seen the largest number. The dispute was settled in favour of Romulus. He fixed upon the Palatine Hill, and drew a plan of the walls. Remus, exceedingly vexed at not having his own way, ridiculed the work, and, after much provoking language, is said to have pretended to jump over the city walls. This roused the anger of Romulus, the friends of each brother took a share in the dispute, and from words they came to blows. Remus and Faustulus lost their lives in the fray; and it is even said, that Remus fell by the hand of his own brother."

"*Dear mamma, this is as bad as the history of Cain and Abel. Was Romulus punished as*
,"

"At the time we are speaking of, my dear, God had ceased to punish all mankind as immediately for their crimes, as we read he did at the beginning of the world. Romulus would meet with his reward after this life. There is, however, some excuse to be made for him ; he had never been taught to know and love the true and only God ; he had not been made early to correct his bad temper, and to watch over every foolish thought ; he had no Bible, to shew him the beauty of goodness, and the hatefulness of sin. The gods he had been taught to worship are described as committing all sorts of crimes themselves:—how should he imagine they would punish those of others ?"

"Mamma, that might be an excuse for want of temper, but Romulus's own heart would tell him it was wrong to kill his brother."

"No doubt it did so, my dear Anne ; indeed it is said he felt sorry when the crime was committed, but the evil was in the commencement. A person who once lets his temper get the better of him, never knows where he may stop ; it is only by checking the beginning of anger that we can command ourselves, and prevent the *commission* of actual crimes. Had Romulus *been early taught to do to others as he woul*

have others do to him, he would have yielded at least some part of his wishes to his brother, and would have treated him with mildness ; while Remus, had he been acquainted with the Scripture, would have known that ‘ a soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.’ ”

“ I think, mamma, I shall never forget this story, but it is very difficult to remember anything when we feel angry.”

“ It is so, my love : but if you are sincerely anxious to do right, and pray to God to assist you, he can, by his Holy Spirit, give you, a little girl, that assistance, which Romulus, a great king and mighty conqueror, was in want of. But to return to our story, this happened 753 years before the birth of our Saviour, in the time of the Prophet Isaiah, and during the reign of Pekah, king of Judah. Romulus, I said before, was both strong and active. These qualities, in the times we are speaking of, were considered virtues, and the followers of Romulus chose him for their king. In some respects their choice was fortunate, as he made many good laws.

This new city was called Rome, after its founder. Romulus next divided the people into two classes; the upper or higher order he called

Patricians, and the lower rank he called Plebeians."

"Oh! that is the reason I often hear persons who have no titles called Plebeians:—is it not, mamma?"

"Yes, my love, it is usual to call commoners, that is, those who are not children of, or descended from some noble family, by that term; while Patrician is still used to denote rank or nobility. From the Patricians, one hundred persons were chosen, to settle the business of the State, remarkable either for their age, wisdom or valour; and as they were supposed to watch over the people with paternal affection, they were styled Conscript Fathers. This body of men was called the Senate, and the individuals were termed Senators. Did you ever hear those words used?"

"I do not remember them, mamma."

"The English House of Commons is often termed the British Senate, and its members are also called Senators."

"I recollect them both now, mamma; they are used in a poem Philip is very fond of, in *Enfield's Speaker*; here is the book, and here is the poem on Slavery. This is one part:

"Ye bands of Senators, whose suffrage sways
"Britannia's realms, whom either Ind obeys."

And again:—

“Hear him, ye Senates, hear this truth sublime,

“He who allows oppression, shares the crime.”

“To increase the number of his subjects, Romulus opened an asylum or sanctuary, where fugitives of all kinds were secure; and runaway slaves, criminals, and persons who were tired of their own country, were invited to settle in Rome.”

“I did not know, mamma, that when I used the word asylum, I was expressing myself in a classical term.”

“Yet you were so, my dear Anne, and you will meet with many words which have become, from long use, English words, yet were originally used by nations you know nothing about. Knowing the necessity of mutual assistance in every rank in life, Romulus caused every Plebeian to choose a patron from amongst the Senators. This patron was to protect the plebeian, or, as he was called, client, both with money or advice, when necessary; and the client was bound to assist his patron in return, whenever *he was called upon*, either in peace or war.”

“Now, mamma, I know the reason why a *kind friend or protector* is called a patron. Only ~~that~~ *say* you said that my cousin Edward wa

sure to get on in his profession, as the good and rich Lord Merton was his patron; and client means, mamma—I have forgotten, I believe”—

“A client, my love, is the person who employs a lawyer.”

“Oh! then I suppose papa was Mr. Wilson’s client, when Mr. Ainsworth was trying to get the Yew Tree Farm from him.”

“Yes, Anne, Mr. Wilson was the person who pleaded for your papa, that is, explained to the judge and jury what right your papa had to the land, and proved that Mr. Ainsworth wanted that to which he had no claim. The duties between a patron and his client were held so sacred, that those who did not perform them were considered infamous.”

“Mamma, this is something like the command of our Saviour, in the New Testament, ‘to love our neighbour as ourselves.’”

“It may appear so, my love, but there is a great difference. The heathen ruler taught his people to be useful to those who, they expected, would be useful to them in return; while our Lord taught his disciples not only to do good to those from whom no return could be looked for, *but even to love and assist their enemies. Look into the sixth chapter of St. Matthew, 43rd verse*

‘Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy; but I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.’ Again, in Luke, sixth chapter, he gives the same commands, adding, ‘for if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them that do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them from whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good and lend, hoping for nothing again, and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest, for he is kind unto the unthankful, and to the evil.’ ”

Romulus is said to have been very attentive to the religious ceremonies then in use among the heathen. His laws concerning parents and children, and husbands and wives, were very severe. He gave a father full power over his *children, even permitting him to take away their lives. If they were born with any deformity, he was not even obliged to rear them, but might*

expose them in the public road, to be destroyed by hunger, or taken care of by a passer by."

"Oh! mamma, I am very glad I am not a young Roman."

"Indeed, my love, you have great reason to be thankful, for you are born in a time, and in a country, where religious, as well as every other instruction, is freely bestowed on boys and girls of all ranks. Romulus established a guard for his person, consisting of three hundred horse soldiers, called Celeres. He also appointed twelve officers of justice, called Lictors, who were the executioners of the laws. When he appeared in public, these men walked before him, carrying a bundle of rods, with an axe in the middle, called Fasces. The subjects of Romulus now amounted to above 3000 men, but there were few women amongst them, and as they were the outcasts from other people, the surrounding nations would not give them their daughters in marriage. In order to obtain wives for his subjects, it is said, that Romulus made use of a stratagem. He made an entertainment, to which he invited any persons who chose to come. The Sabines, who lived near, brought *their wives and daughters*, and, whilst their *attention was taken up with some amusement*

a great many young Romans rushed in with drawn swords, and seized the young women, whom they forced to marry them. In consequence of this deceitful conduct, the neighbouring nations took up arms against the Romans. The first who appeared were the Caeninenses. Romulus marched against them, defeated them, killed their king, and presented his spoils, that is, his arms, &c., to Jupiter, in a temple he had built, and dedicated to that god, on the Saturnine hill, which he took into the city. This is said to be the origin of triumphs. The Sabines were the last and most formidable of the enemies the Romans had to contend with, and, in the last engagement, peace is said to have been restored by the very women whose loss had caused the war. These women had been kindly treated by their Roman husbands, and had become attached to them. When the two armies met, they thought nothing of their own danger, but, anxious to save their fathers, brothers, and husbands, rushed between them; their tears prevailed, both parties threw down their weapons, a reconciliation took place, and it was agreed that *the Romans* and Sabines should in future form *one people*, and that Romulus, and Tatius, *the Sabines*, should govern jointly. The

death of Tatius soon after made Romulus sole master. The cities of Cecina, Antennæ, and Crustumium, were in this war added to the Roman dominions, and peopled from Rome. Fidena, Cameria, and Veii, were also taken. Such success produced a great degree of pride in Romulus, he took upon himself more power than formerly, he grew haughty in his behaviour, dressed more magnificently than he had used to do, and acted without the advice of the Senate, who were much displeased with his conduct, and, as he suddenly disappeared, without the manner of his death being known, it is generally supposed that he was murdered secretly by their orders. To prevent the people, who loved him, from making inquiries about him, they were persuaded that he was taken up into heaven. A temple was built to his honour, and he was afterwards worshipped under the name of the god Quirinus. Romulus reigned 37 years. You may have some idea of the increase of Roman power during this short time: its forces now amounted to 46,000 foot, and 1000 horse soldiers. And now, my dear Anne, I believe we must leave off, for I hear the *dressing bell*, and you find we have not yet come to *the Rubicon*."

"Mamma, your story has been so very interesting, that I had almost forgotten the Rubicon. How very wonderful it was that Rome should become so powerful in so short a time—a few runaway slaves, in less than 40 years, to increase to above 47,000 persons. Their city must have become much larger also, as they could not all live in the few mud cottages which were built at first. How much I should like to see a drawing of the city when first founded, and another when Romulus died."

"Romulus had added the hill Saturnius, before his death, and Rome was most likely much enlarged; but a drawing of it would not, I should suppose, have any beauty to recommend it, as a king so much engaged in war could have but little time to adorn his city; but Anne, you seem to have forgotten the comparison between Romulus and Moses."

"Mamma, I am ashamed at having mentioned it; their characters had no resemblance. Romulus is certainly interesting, as founder of Rome, but Moses makes us love him for his patience and his kindness as a man—we long to follow *his example*."

"Just so, my love, and now run and dress."

CHAPTER II.



THE next day, Anne, having fetched her mother's work basket, and spread the map of Italy on the table, awaited with anxiety the moment when she had promised to continue her history of Rome.

"Dear mamma," she exclaimed, as Mrs. Stratton entered the room, "I am so happy you are come, for I have some more classical words for you to explain. I read, yesterday, that the Magna Charta is the palladium of British liberty. What is meant by Palladium?"

"Tell me first, Anne, what the Magna Charta is?"

"Mamma, it is the written promise which King John was forced to sign, and which secured the liberties and rights of Englishmen"—
"And which is the foundation of our present"

freedom and happiness, my dear girl. The Palladium was a statue of the goddess Minerva, upon the preservation of which the safety of the town of Troy was said to depend. It was stolen away by the contrivance of the Greeks, after which the city was taken and burnt,—at least so the poets say: this famous statue was afterwards brought to Rome."

"Mamma, I have another question to ask. Why do you so often use the words, 'it is said,' and 'they say?' "

"I am glad you observe so accurately my manner of expressing myself, Anne. My reason for using these terms is, that in the early history of Rome, truth and fiction are so blended, that in the present day it is not possible to separate them. However, even the fiction is worth attending to, as many useful lessons are conveyed in fables, which were formerly much thought of. Your Æsop's Fables were originally written for the instruction of men, not for the amusement of children, and indeed a person would be much at a loss, without some knowledge of these classical fictions, as poetry, sculpture, and painting abound with allusions to them."

"Mamma, why have you not allowed me to read the Roman and other histories before

this? Philip read them long before he was my age."

"It was necessary, my dear, that Philip should have some insight into profane history, before he went to school, where he would have appeared very ignorant without it. With you, whom I hope to keep at home, under my own eye, there was no immediate hurry. I wished to make you thoroughly acquainted with the best of all histories, that of the Scriptures, before you entered upon any other, and I expect, that, by so doing, your improvement and pleasure will, in the end, be increased. You are now able to compare the striking moral virtues of the heathens with the humble integrity of the good men mentioned in the Bible."

"Indeed, mamma, I have had great pleasure in comparing Romulus with Moses. Philip and I looked for the account of the kindness of Moses to Aaron and Miriam, when they were punished by God for ill behaviour to him, so very different from Romulus's treatment of his brother: but I hope the next king of Rome will be a better man, or I shall not like the ancients much, though Philip talks so much of their greatness."

"The virtues of the heroes of old times, my

a great many young Romans rushed in with drawn swords, and seized the young women, whom they forced to marry them. In consequence of this deceitful conduct, the neighbouring nations took up arms against the Romans. The first who appeared were the Caeninenses. Romulus marched against them, defeated them, killed their king, and presented his spoils, that is, his arms, &c., to Jupiter, in a temple he had built, and dedicated to that god, on the Saturnine hill, which he took into the city. This is said to be the origin of triumphs. The Sabines were the last and most formidable of the enemies the Romans had to contend with, and, in the last engagement, peace is said to have been restored by the very women whose loss had caused the war. These women had been kindly treated by their Roman husbands, and had become attached to them. When the two armies met, they thought nothing of their own danger, but, anxious to save their fathers, brothers, and husbands, rushed between them; their tears prevailed, both parties threw down their weapons, a reconciliation took place, and it was agreed that *the Romans and Sabines should in future form but one people, and that Romulus, and Tatius, king of the Sabines, should govern jointly.* The

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III

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nowledged their need

In reading the history of the men, while you are constant in pursuing

what they imagined to be the chief good, you will, I hope, condemn the pride and vanity which accompanied them; and you will consider, that if so much self-denial, fortitude, industry, generosity, and truth, were shewn by unenlightened heathens, whose only reward was the praise of man, and whose only example that of weak mortals like themselves, how much more will be expected from a Christian child, who has the hopes of heaven and immortality before her, the instructions of our Blessed Lord as her guide, and his holy life and death as her example. The remarks I have made are general: of course there were exceptions to common rules in this as in every other nation, of which you will be convinced in the history of Numa Pompilius, who was chosen by the Senate to succeed Romulus. He was a perfect contrast to his predecessor, and took as much pains to soften the rude temper of his subjects as Romulus had done to increase his dominions. This truly wise man was a Sabine by birth, and lived contentedly, upon a small fortune, without seeking public honours. He was skilled in all the learning of *his country* and times, and so famous for *justice, moderation*, and attention to the religious *duties then in use*, that the choice of the Senate

was approved by the people. Numa was forty years of age, and is said not only to have conquered the passions then considered bad, but even to have restrained the inclinations to cruelty, rapacity, violence, and revenge, encouraged and approved by his countrymen and neighbours, being convinced that no one could be truly great who could not conquer himself. So far from being pleased with the honour conferred upon him by the Senate of Rome, in choosing him for their king, he at first refused it, saying he was unfit to rule so warlike a people ; but the persuasions of the ambassadors, and the entreaties of his father, who set before him the service he might perform to his countrymen, by promoting religion amongst them, and moderating their love of war, at last induced him to accept the dignity, and, after sacrificing to the gods, he set out for Rome. Under this mild prince the Romans acquired a taste for agriculture and peaceable occupations. His first wish was to inspire them with a love for the gods ; he instituted feasts in their honour, and built several temples for their worship. That dedicated to *Janus* was shut in time of peace, and open *during that of war.*"

"Who was Janus, mamma?"-

"Janus is said to have been a wise king of Italy. The poets tell us that Saturn, the father of the gods, being driven from his own kingdom, fled to this prince for protection. Janus received him kindly, and gave him a share in his kingdom. Together they civilized the people of Italy, war and crimes were unknown in the land, and such was the happiness enjoyed, that their joint reign is termed the Golden Age."

"Ah, mamma, I have often met with the golden age, as a time of perfect happiness."

"But cannot you trace another meaning for this fable, Anne?"

"I suppose I ought, mamma, or you would not ask me. Can it have any thing to do with the state of happiness in which Adam and Eve lived before they sinned?"

"It is supposed to have arisen from that, my dear. In return for the kindness of Janus, Saturn gave him the power of remembering the past, and foretelling the future; hence he is called the God of foresight, and represented with two faces."

"Philip shewed me a print of him the other day, but I had forgotten his name: one face *looked backward*, the other forward. Philip *told me his real history* is supposed to have

given rise to the fable, and that he was called the god of foresight, because he was so much wiser than his countrymen that they fancied his knowledge must come from above."

"Perhaps so, my love: I dare say you have also seen a figure of Saturn, an old man with a scythe in his hand."

"Do you mean old Time, mamma, with his hour-glass, and scythe, and single lock of hair?"

"I do, my love: Saturn, or Chronos, is the same with Time, who is said to devour his own children: can you tell why?"

"Oh! yes, that is very easy to find out; Time destroys all things: is not that it, mamma?"

"Yes, my dear. After the death of Saturn, feasts were celebrated in his honour, and during the time they lasted the slaves were free. They might dress like their masters, and say any thing to them, without fear of punishment; this feast was called the Saturnalia, and the festival of the Carnival is said to have its rise from the Saturnalia of the ancients."

"I read an account of the Carnival the other day, mamma: it is kept in all Catholic countries, and people of all ranks mask themselves and *mix together*."

"Numa also built a temple to Vesta, who is

considered the goddess of fire, and appointed priestesses called Vestal virgins. These young women were chosen from the most noble families, and during the thirty years they continued in the temple, were not allowed to marry : their duties were to watch over the sacred fire, and to instruct the younger vestals. So much importance was attached to the preservation of the holy flame, that the vestal, by whose carelessness it was permitted to expire, was buried alive, and the people went into mourning as during the time of a public misfortune. The vestals had many privileges. When they went abroad, the fasces were carried before them, and if they met a condemned criminal, they had the power of pardoning him."

"Mamma, I have been thinking where I had seen the word vestal, and now I remember it is in some lines under the print of a nun ; but I forget how it is used."

"Were these the lines ?

"How happy is the blameless vestal's lot,
The world forgetting, by the world forgot."

"Yes, mamma, those were the lines, and I suppose nuns are compared to vestals, because *they do not marry*, but live retired.

"Yes, my dear; but the word vestal is not un-

frequently used in speaking of a single woman, particularly by the poets. In the temple of Vesta was kept the Palladium, which we were speaking of in the first part of our conversation."

"But, mamma, you said that statue was stolen by the Greeks: how then did it get to Rome?"

"Many stories are told of it, my love; one of which says that the statue stolen was only an imitation, and that the real Palladium was brought from Troy by Æneas. Numa built a temple to Faith, and taught his subjects that nothing was more necessary than to keep their promises sacred. He also fixed bounds to the city, and built a temple to Terminus, the god of boundaries."

"Mamma, that is very like our word terminate; I suppose it is derived from the Latin."

"Numa, in order to employ his subjects, and turn their thoughts from war, encouraged agriculture, and divided the lands taken from the enemy among the poorer citizens; he destroyed all distinction between Romans and Sabines, but classed the people, according to their trades, into companies. He amended some of the *laws of Romulus*, rendering them far less severe. He is said to have lived much amongst

his people, reproving those who deserved blame, and rewarding the good and industrious. After a useful and happy reign of forty-three years, this excellent prince died of old age, and, contrary to the custom of the heathens at funerals, ordered his body to be buried."

"What did they do with their dead then, mamma?"

"They burned their bodies upon a funeral pile, my love, and collecting the ashes in an urn or vase, preserved them."

"What could make Numa act differently, mamma?"

"That is a question which it is impossible to answer, Anne, with any certainty. Some attribute it to the humility so apparent in all his actions, which led him to wish to be restored to that earth to which all nature shews that we must return; be that as it will, his body was buried in a most magnificent way by the senate, but what was more glorious to his memory, was, that he was followed to the grave by the tears of his subjects, who lamented him as a common father."

"Mamma, as Numa studied so much, do not you think it possible that he might have dis-

covered that, in early times, the dead were buried instead of burned."

"My dear girl, he might have done so, but as we cannot decide why he made the request, and as it is not material that we should, it would be loss of time to puzzle ourselves about it."

"Mamma, there is no danger in my admiring Numa too much, is there? His virtues were not dazzling, they were solid."

"Nothing can be solid that is without foundation. The foundation of any virtue is the principle that gives rise to it. What was the principle or foundation of Numa's goodness?"

"Was it not religion, mamma? He was very anxious to make his subjects worship the gods in the way he thought right, and he built many temples. If his faith was false, you know, he had been taught it from childhood; and if he was sincere in that which he had been taught, that was all that could be expected from a heathen."

"But, Anne, notwithstanding Numa built so many temples, and was so anxious about religious ceremonies, I much doubt whether he really believed in the gods he worshipped. A strong feeling of religion in the common people is of use to every lawgiver: this Numa was well

aware of, and he did every thing in his power to excite it in the Romans; by its means he brought about all his designs, and imposed upon his subjects in the grossest manner."

"Imposed, mamma! I thought he built a temple to Faith, and imposing upon any one is contrary to the laws of good faith and sincerity. But pray tell me what he did?"

"He pretended, my love, that a goddess came down from heaven to instruct him how to govern his people; and in the time of a pestilence in the city, he produced a shield, which he said had fallen from heaven, for the safety and use of the people. To prevent this shield from being stolen, he had eleven made exactly like it, and he appointed priests to take charge of these Ancyliæ, as the twelve shields were called; he also instituted festivals in honour of them. The priests were called Salii, and the Ancyliæ were kept in the temple of Vesta. Is this sufficient to prove that he had not a firm belief in his gods?"

"Quite, mamma, for he would not have trifled with what he held sacred. Then I suppose that Numa's goodness arose from a natural *desire to do right*?"

"I think it did, Anne: acted upon by the

ruling passion of the Romans, the love of fame, or the wish to be thought well of, and spoken of after death, which a Christian will consider as but a poor foundation for goodness."

"Poor, indeed, mamma; but as God is so just, do you not think he will make allowances for that ignorance which is not wilful?"

"We need not feel anxious about that, my dear Anne: our God is not only just, but merciful, and he will be the judge both of the Heathen and Christian; however, I think you now perceive the necessity of setting a guard over your feelings, while you read of the heroes of old times, lest, in your admiration of their many and great virtues, you forget the humbler graces of the Christian character, which are absolutely necessary to perfection."

"I do indeed, mamma, and I will try to admire the ancient hero, as one who does one or two great actions, which I take a pleasure in reading of, but which are out of my power to imitate. But the Christians I will think of as often as I can: their examples will be useful to me in every moment of my life, and if I follow them, I shall be a good, humble, and happy *child*. *Is not that what you wish me to feel, mamma?*"

“It is indeed, my love, and if you continue to feel so, ancient history will improve your mind and enrich your imagination, without injuring your principles; but our conversation has been very serious. Run into the garden: I think I saw Philip pass the window a few minutes since.”

CHAPTER III.

THE next day, at the usual hour, Mrs. Stratton entered the school-room, and finding Anne already seated at her work, was going to continue her recital ; the little girl, however, begged her to stop a few minutes, saying, Philip wished to join them.

“ I am afraid,” said her mother, “ that your papa will expect his Latin exercises to be attended to now, and the slight account I am giving, will not, I should think, be either new or interesting to him.”

“ Mamma, he is gone to beg papa to let him work an extra hour before breakfast, and to allow *him to come to us now*. I have told him *the stories of Romulus and Numa*, and he says *we are so very hard upon the poor Romans*

that he must come and defend them, that is, if you will allow him."

"I cannot have any objection, Anne, for, although Philip is so strongly attached to the ancients, I am sure he has too much candour to wish to support the faulty parts of their characters, and as I desire you to admire their really valuable qualities, he is quite at liberty to be their advocate: tell him we are ready."

"Here I am," said Philip, stopping Anne as she was preparing to run to fetch him. "Papa has given me permission to come and protect the defenceless."

"Not the defenceless, my dear boy," said his mother, smiling. "I think if you call to mind the numerous able authors who have eulogized your favorite heroes, you will allow that they have little to fear from the occasional censure of a woman."

"But, mamma, as none of those able authors are present just now, my favorites are little the better for their assistance, unless I bring forward an anecdote, now and then, in behalf of their protégés. Do you permit me?"

"Most willingly, my dear boy, and I shall be very glad of an assistant. But we seem to *have forgotten* our history."

"After the death of Numa, five kings reigned successively in Rome, and the city increased both in size and power."

"Mamma, if you please," said Anne, "I should like to know the names of these kings, and something about their histories."

"Their histories, my dear, are not very interesting. However, the first was Tullus Hostilius."

"Hostile means warlike, mamma, in English: was this king fond of war?"

"He was, my dear, and a remarkable combat took place in his reign, which Philip shall have the pleasure of relating."

"Well, Anne, the first people who engaged in war with the Romans, during the reign of Tullus, were the Albans. For many reasons, both parties wished to avoid a battle, and it was agreed between the generals, that champions should be chosen on each side, whose victory or defeat should decide the contest. There happened to be three twin brothers in each army, which remarkable circumstance caused the choice to be decided directly. These brothers were celebrated for strength and courage, and to them was committed the fate of *their countries*. Both armies were arranged on

the field of battle, each having sworn that the party whose champions were vanquished would yield to the other, and every thing being ready, the Roman champions, who were called the Horatii, and the defenders of the Albans named Curiatii, appeared upon the field. Imagine, Anne, the agitation of each army, when, before the attack, the six warriors, who were intimate friends, embraced each other tenderly, and then forgetting every thing but that the safety of their country depended upon them, rushed to the combat. Solemn was the silence which reigned around, and dreadful was the despair of the Romans, when, after a long and doubtful contest, they saw two of their champions dead upon the field, and the third flying from the conquerors. The Albans shouted for joy, the Romans groaned with horror, but the scene was soon changed when the flight of Horace proved itself to be only pretended. Having separated his antagonists, who were all wounded, he turned upon the first, who followed him, attacked, and laid him dead at his feet: the next brother shared the same fate; and the third, *who was severely wounded, being also killed, victory was declared in favour of the Romans.*

"Oh, mamma, what a victory! bought with

the blood of his two brothers, and his beloved friends. I would not exchange places with the conqueror, even to have saved my country."

"Alas ! my dear Anne, if you pity the Victor now, I know not what you will do when the story is ended ; Philip, you must tell the whole."

"Mamma, I have no pleasure in telling the remainder, but I will finish it. Horace returned rejoicing from the field of battle, loaded with the thanks and praises of his fellow citizens, and covered with the spoils of his conquered foes, though we can hardly call them so ; competitors is a better word. On entering his own house, he was met by his sister, who, bathed in tears, was lamenting the death of her betrothed husband, one of the Curiatii. Raising her eyes, she saw a scarf she had worked for her lover, worn in triumph by her brother ; and, unable to restrain her feelings, she bitterly reproached him as the cause of her grief. Horace, who, perhaps, little expected such treatment, and whose mind was agitated by different feelings of joy and sorrow, was roused to anger at his sister's weakness, and, forgetting every tie of kindred and affection, with the same sword that had saved his country, destroyed his sister. I see you are shocked, Anne. F'

this crime, Horatius was condemned to death, but was pardoned by the voice of his country."

"Oh, Philip! I was happy before, that I am not a Roman child, but I am much more so now; I may love my brother without any fear of his being obliged to sacrifice all his affections to his country.—I hope your next anecdote will be more agreeable, brother. Mamma, will you go on?"

"In the reign of Tullus, the hills, called Cælius, Quirinalis, and Esquilinus, were added to the city; and after a warlike reign of thirty-two years, this king is said to have been killed by lightning. Ancus Martius, grandson to Numa, succeeded. He added Mounts Aventine and Janiculum to the city; he built Ostia, a sea-port at the mouth of the Tiber, and reigned usefully and honourably twenty-four years. After his death, Lucius Tarquinius Priscus, the son of a stranger, by intrigue and management, obtained the kingdom. He added a hundred members to the senate, improved the city, and beautified the market-place, or forum."

"There, Anne," exclaimed Philip, "is another classical term for you! Forum is often used in speaking of a court of justice."

"But why so, brother?"

"Because it was the place where points of law were decided :—go on, mamma."

"Tarquinius also laid out a place for public games and amusements, called, from its circular figure, the circus."

"Mamma, I have heard of the circus."

"I dare say you have, my love : it is a place of public amusement. Tarquinius also laid the foundation of a temple to Jupiter on the hill Saturnius, afterwards called the Capitoline hill ; and after an active reign of thirty-eight years, he was assassinated by the contrivance of the sons of Ancus Martius, who fancied themselves injured by his usurpation of their late father's kingdom. Servius Tullius, the son of a slave, who had married Tarquin's daughter, was chosen king by the senate, without any appeal to the people. He established a new method of taxation, in which, instead of each citizen paying an equal sum of money for the support of the government as formerly, he was to be taxed according to his fortune."

"That seems just, mamma," said Anne.

"It was certainly just, my dear Anne ; but as an advantage is often attended with some evil, *that was the case here* ; the people lost power *in proportion as* they paid less to the state.

Servius divided all the citizens into six classes, and each class into a certain number of centuries. There was the greatest number of centuries in the first class, which consisted of the richest persons ; and, in the last class, there was but one century : this last paid no taxes ; all the others paid an equal share of them. It was settled that they should give their votes in the same manner, so many from each century. Formerly, each person had a right to give his vote singly, and the numbers of the poor being greater than those of the rich, they, of course, had the advantage : now that the votes were taken by centuries, the centuries of the rich being much more numerous than those of the lower orders, the advantage was thrown into the opposite scale. Do you understand me ?”

“ Yes, mamma ; while each poor man could give a vote, the plebeians had the greatest number to give ; but now that only a certain quantity of the poor had one vote among them, of course they could have but few in all. In speaking of this division of the Romans, you used two words that I have often heard,—*class*, which, in English, means order, or rank ; *and century*, which is a hundred ; did each Roman century contain a hundred men ?”

"Yes, and the numbering of the people and valuation of their fortunes were to take place every five years, and were called the census; it concluded with a purifying sacrifice, called a lustrum, hence that word is very often used for the space of five years."

"Then I suppose, mamma, I may add lustrum to my list of classical terms," said Anne.

"Yes, Anne, that you may," replied Philip, "and I think your dictionary will soon be of a respectable size: do not you, mamma?"

"I did not know that Anne was forming one, but I think it an excellent plan," answered Mrs. Stratton; "but let us return to our history. Servius had a long reign, of forty-four years, and seems to have been of great service to his people: I grieve to tell you that his own daughter, assisted by one of the sons of Lucius Tarquinius, his predecessor, was the cause of his death. The horrid particulars I will not relate. This good old man was succeeded by Lucius Tarquinius, surnamed Superbus, or the proud, who, having despatched his father-in-law, seated himself upon the throne, and put to death all whom he suspected of favouring Tullius. Conscious that he deserved the hatred of the people, he kept them in continual employ

ment, to prevent them from thinking of his ill conduct. He was engaged in war during the whole of his reign, and undertook to complete the temple of Jupiter, which his grandfather had commenced. . Whilst the workmen were digging the foundations, it is said that a man's head was found, which, though he had been many years dead, still bled freshly. This prodigy gave the building the name of Capitol, from the Latin words caput, a head, and Tolius, the name of the man whose head was found. This Capitol was the famous citadel and temple where the magistrates offered their sacrifices, and where the processions were always conducted. Tarquin continued to reign in the most arbitrary manner for some years ; he paid no regard to the Senate, and was held in such detestation, that a crime committed by one of his sons, roused the people to throw off the yoke. He and his family were driven out of the city, and a law made, that whoever pleaded for his return should be punished with death : he had reigned twenty-five years. With Tarquin ended the regal power, after it had continued 245 years. This happened 509 years *before the birth of our Saviour*, and six years *after the building of the second temple at Jeru-*

alem. The Roman territory was at this time about forty miles long, and thirty broad, the government had gradually acquired strength and vigour, by the activity and moderation of its kings. I have now brought you to one of the æras in the history of this great empire: we will, therefore, cease, unless you wish me, at a future time, to continue my story."

"Certainly we do, mamma," exclaimed both children at once.

"I will then, with pleasure, resume it hereafter; but, Philip, what are you thinking of? You do not appear satisfied."

"I was considering, mamma, what could be our reason for avoiding all mention of Lucretia, whose sad fate occasioned a change of government in this great empire, and whose virtue has ever been so celebrated, that her name may be considered as a classical term, for to call a woman a Lucretia, is to say she possesses every virtue—"

"Every heathen virtue, if you please, my dear Philip; but I trust, that, under similar circumstances, our Anne would act very differently, and display virtues of a much higher, and far *different character*. The name of Lucretia is, however, become so synonymous with that

virtue, that it certainly was an omission to pass it over entirely. I will, therefore, relate some particulars of her history. This lady was equally celebrated for her beauty, her prudence, and what was singular, in that dissipated age, her attachment to her husband and her home. It is said that, one evening, when Collatinus, her husband, having drunk wine until he forgot what was right and what wrong, joined a party of young Romans in leaving the camp, where they then were, and, late as it was, riding to Rome to decide a wager, as to whose wife should be found most properly employed. The ladies were all engaged in visiting, or with company, with the exception of Lucretia, who was sitting quietly at home, employed in spinning. Such is the power of goodness, that even those riotous young men acknowledged that Collatinus was the most fortunate man amongst them, in his choice of a wife. Collatinus was, however, to be severely punished for introducing a set of dissipated young men into his happy home. Sextus, one of the sons of Tarquin, was so charmed with Lucretia, that he again visited her, and tried to persuade her to forget her duties as a woman and a wife, and to commit actions which would have disgraced

her for ever. Lucretia indignantly refused, desiring him to leave her house, upon which Tarquin threatened to kill her, and to declare that he had found her committing a crime which deserved death: Lucretia had not been taught to do right, and to leave the event to an all-wise Creator. She had not the example of a blessed Saviour, who died by a disgraceful death, to save sinners from punishment. She had been taught to dread disgrace, and did wrong to save herself from being thought guilty. In the morning, she sent a messenger to fetch her husband, and some friends, related the particulars of Sextus' conduct, declared she would not live to be a disgrace to her family, and, before any one was aware of her intention, plunged into her bosom a dagger which she had hidden in her clothing for that purpose."

"Oh! mamma; and did she die?"

"She immediately expired, my dear Anne, and her sad story is a striking proof of how little value shining virtues are, when not supported by Christian principles."

"You may well say sad story, mamma; how shocking, to kill herself. If she thought she deserved punishment, why did she not live and better?"

“ My dear Anne, said Philip, are you blaming her? I thought you would admire her courage.”

“ Her courage—I suppose she had courage, for I should have been afraid to do so, but——”

“ I hope, Anne,” said Mrs. Stratton, “ that you will learn to value the real courage which induces a person to face every danger to which human nature can be exposed ; to submit to every indignity which the world can inflict ; to struggle with poverty ; to suffer, what is worse than all, unmerited blame, rather than shrink from the post committed to him by his Maker.”

“ But, mamma,” interrupted Philip, “ surely there is some courage required to take one’s own life away, to give one’s self pain, mamma ?”

“ You prevented me from finishing my remark, Philip : I was hoping your sister would distinguish between that species of false courage which leads a person to suffer a small portion of present pain, in order to avoid a danger so great that he dares not meet it ; and the Christian courage, I before described. What would you have said to a Roman soldier, who maimed himself to avoid going upon a fatiguing, or even *a dangerous, expedition* ? Would you call the *bearing the pain of losing an arm or a leg under such circumstances, courage* ?”

“ Oh no, mamma ; I feel that I was wrong, and I also see that more was expected from the Roman soldier than from the Christian hero : the Roman, frequently, went cheerfully upon expeditions which ended in certain death ; his only reward was the honour of serving his country, but the Christian soldier cannot suffer beyond the present moment, his enterprise must end well. May I make such a comparison, mamma ? ”

“ You may, my dear boy, for the Scriptures abound in allusions to the customs of the ancients ; indeed, you could not understand many parts, particularly the Epistles, without an acquaintance with their history and manners. But you have been occupied quite long enough ; now run into the garden and take some exercise.”

CHAPTER IV.

"MAMMA, the morning is very wet, and Philip and I are tired of playing at battledore and shuttlecock; may we come to you, and will you continue your history of Rome?"

"I will go on with my sketch of the Roman history with pleasure, my love. We had arrived at that period when the people, who had long groaned under the tyranny of the Tarquins, were roused by the crime of Sextus, and drove that wicked family from Rome. At this time a fresh division of the Roman people took place; there were now formed three orders,—senators, knights, and commons. All the senators wore a gold ring; but those chosen from the commons had not a horse kept for them. The knights, or equestrian order, wore gold rings, and had each a horse maintained at the public *expense*."

"I often hear the word equestrian used to a person who rides, mamma," said Anne.

"Yes, my dear, it is one of those words for which we are indebted to the Romans. The government was now called republican, although the senate reserved to itself the greatest share of power. Two of their body were annually chosen, to have in reality as much authority as their kings had possessed, and called by the name of consuls, Brutus and Collatinus being the two first who enjoyed this honour. This new form of government was very soon nearly overthrown by a conspiracy formed amongst some of the young men of high rank in Rome, who wished to restore the Tarquins. This occurrence represents the Roman character in so marked a manner, that I shall dwell upon it rather longer than my short account may seem to render necessary. Death had been the punishment decreed against any one who should endeavour to bring back the Tarquins. The sons of Brutus, and the nephews of Collatinus, by joining in this plot, had incurred this penalty. To Brutus, the father of these unhappy youths, and to Collatinus, the uncle of the others, did every eye turn, for on them *rested the fate of those so dear to them.*"

"Surely, mamma, other judges were chosen; no relation, much less a father, could be expected to act as judge in such a case."

"A Roman, my dear, had no relation so dear as his country. To its greatness every wish, every feeling was sacrificed. Brutus and Collatinus were the judges of these unhappy youths, who were brought before them amidst the tears of their countrymen. Even Collatinus wept, but Brutus remained firm and unmoved. The young men were questioned, and being unable to deny what had been alleged against them, notwithstanding Collatinus made some efforts to save them, were sentenced to die, and their heads were immediately struck off by the lictors."

"How dreadful, mamma! Surely, no Christian father, however guilty his son might be, would have acted in this manner: what do you think?"

"A Christian father, my child, under *such* dreadful circumstances, feeling that the death of a wicked child was necessary to society in general, would not, I think, have acted like Brutus, *but would have* relinquished the office which *compelled him* to be thus severe. Unable to *be merciful*, while he was just, he would have

left such an offender to another judge, less nearly connected with him."

"But, mamma, had Brutus's ideas of duty been different, his conduct would have been so too. Certainly, the man who could so far command his feelings in a mistaken sense of duty, must have acted nobly, under any circumstances."

"People are apt, I think, Philip, to judge him harshly; they suppose him without feelings, because he commanded them. Our celebrated painter, West, has, in my opinion, done him more justice. In his beautiful picture of this famous scene, Brutus's countenance expresses firmness in duty, while the clenched form of his hands, which are so compressed you might almost suppose the blood would flow, denotes the most intense mental sufferings."

"However this may be, I will be thankful," interrupted Anne, "that I am born in another country and another age; but pray go on, dear mamma."

"This form of government under consuls continued for ten years, when a serious disturbance arose in Rome. The soldiers who had *spent their time in fighting its battles, and increasing its dominions*, had not been ab-

attend to the cultivation of their portions of land. Of course, their fields lay waste, and as they fought without pay, they had been obliged to borrow money to support their families. The laws of Rome allowed a creditor to seize his debtor, and employ him as his slave, until his debts should be paid. You know the meaning of those words, I think."

"Oh, yes; a creditor is one who lends, a debtor one who owes."

"Exactly so. The lands taken in war were chiefly divided amongst the higher classes; and the soldiers, on their return from employment abroad, found themselves reduced to the greatest misery at home: they first murmured, and afterwards proceeded to threats, in order to better their condition. This was not all; for, the next time they were summoned by the consuls to follow them to the field, they refused to enlist until their debts should be paid, declaring that those who enjoyed the comforts of peace might undergo the fatigues of war."

"Mamma, that seemed only just; the soldiers were very badly off."

"They were, indeed; and the senate did not know in what way to act. At last, it was proposed to elect a new magistrate; he w

have power, not only over all ranks of people, but even over the laws themselves.'

"Oh, mamma, that was more than the kings had had; how could the Romans bear that?"

"My love, at that time they were angry, and angry people are often willing to give up power themselves in order to lessen that of the person with whom they are angry: this was the case with the Plebeians, who readily consented to any thing which should lessen the power of the senate. Largius was accordingly chosen dictator."

"Dictator—how very much that is like dictatorial, which means, in a positive, commanding manner: did our word come from that?"

"Was it derived from it, you should say; and, I dare say, Philip can inform you."

"I believe both these words," replied Philip, "are derived from the Latin verb *dictare*, to command."

"The people readily enlisted under a dictator; and a victory being gained, Largius gave up his power, which was conferred on him for six months only. The war over, again the soldiers were called upon for their debts, and again *were unable to pay*. Fresh commotions arose, and continued for some time, until at last

soldiers, finding the promises made them in times of danger, were all forgotten as soon as, by their means, the danger was over, resolved to quit Rome, and form a fresh establishment; they accordingly retired to Mount Sacer, about three miles distant. The senate were now quite at a loss how to act. In vain they made fresh promises: they were not believed. Opinions differed as to the propriety of yielding to the soldiery or not, but at last it was resolved to enter into treaty with them. Three of the most popular senators, and ten commissioners, were sent to them.—A long conference took place, which was ended by a wise old man, named Menenius Agrippa, addressing the people in the following fable.”

“ A fable, mamma ! and would angry people listen to a fable ? ”

“ A person who is cool and calm, my dear child, has great advantages over others who are angry, and at last is generally listened to by the most enraged—but for the fable. ‘ In former time,’ said Agrippa, ‘ when each part of the body could think for itself, they all, with one consent, took part against the belly. They knew no reason, they said, why it should live at its ease, and grow fat, while they were toiling from

morning to night to support it in indolence. Accordingly, they agreed they would assist it no longer; the feet declared they would no longer carry it, and the hands said they would work for it no more; the teeth declared they would not chew another morsel of meat for it, even were it placed between them, and the head asserted that it would no more assist it with its foresight and understanding. For some time they kept their resolution, but soon learned that, by mortifying the belly, they were destroying themselves; they languished for a time, and found out, too late, that it was owing to the belly that they had strength to labour, or courage to rebel.' This fable had an immediate effect; the people cried out, that Agrippa should lead them back to Rome. They directly found out that by the belly he meant the rulers, who must be supported by those who are ruled; and that by the members or limbs of the body, he meant the people in general, who, by destroying those placed over them, commonly ruin themselves."

"Mamma, the Romans were very candid, to acknowledge their fault as soon as they discovered it."

"They were also rash, my dear; for

would have returned to receive the same harsh treatment as before, and to repeat the same disputes, had they not been stopped by Lucius Junius, who proposed that there should be certain officers, chosen yearly from among themselves, to guard their rights. To this the senate agreed, and five officers were appointed, called tribunes of the people. They had the power of approving the laws desirable for the people at large, or, on the contrary, of disapproving of what they considered disadvantageous, by using the word *veto*."

"Which means," exclaimed Anne, "I forbid. Papa told me that, a few days ago, when I could not understand what Mr. Simpson meant by saying he had put a veto upon Miss Simpson's going to the concert, because she had a cold. Pray go on, mamma."

"Well, a law being made to abolish the debts, all things returned to their usual order. But what has Philip to say, with that eager face?"

"Dear mamma, I only wanted to ask Anne, who is so fond of comparing profane history with the Bible, whether she recollects any fable mentioned there."

"Do you mean the fable Nathan told u
't?"

"No; I mean one earlier still, and, for once, Anne, I have puzzled you in the Bible, which is very odd, as you generally remember so much more in it than I do."

"That is very natural, Philip, for I have read it much oftener, with mamma, than you, who go to school and learn many other things, have been able to do. But do put me in mind of the fable."

"It was that which Jotham told the people of Shechem, when they chose the wicked Abimelech for their king."

"Oh! now I recollect; how could I be so stupid as to forget it! Abimelech killed his sixty-nine brothers in order to become king, but God did not allow him to enjoy his power long. Jotham's fable was prophetic; I think Nathan's resembled that of Agrippa the most, as it made David instantly sensible of his sin, in the same manner that the Romans directly saw their folly."

"Yes, indeed, Anne, you still have the advantage. Pray go on, mamma!"

"Till now, the great danger had been, lest the senate should acquire too great a degree of power; at present, the case was altered. The people had felt their own strength, and, taking

advantage of it, obtained leave to choose two annual magistrates, to assist the Tribunes. Their duty was to watch over public business, to restrain general immorality, and to determine some causes formerly decided by the consuls. They were called *Ædiles*. Soon after, the Romans marched against the Volsci and Antiates, and took Corioli, one of their chief towns. In this battle, Marcus signalized himself so much, that he received the surname of *Coriolanus*. During the differences between the Senate and the people, agriculture had been entirely neglected, and a famine was the consequence. The Plebeians, always fond of blaming their superiors, laid all the blame on the Patricians, charging them with buying up all the corn in times of plenty, in order to sell it at a higher price in times of scarcity, and the Tribunes increased their discontent. A fleet of ships arriving, laden with corn, partly a present from Gelon, tyrant of Syracuse"—

"A tyrant make presents, mamma?"

"Tyrant, my love, meant, in those days, a ruler or king."

"Then, perhaps, the way in which we now use the word came from some of these tyrants *ruling too severely*."

“ Perhaps so, but to continue,—the corn was partly sent by Gelon, and partly purchased with the public money. Its arrival caused fresh disturbances. While it filled them with joy, a difficulty arose as to the manner in which it should be distributed. Some wished it to be given away, others to sell it at a lower price, while Coriolanus insisted that no steps should be taken with it until the Senate should be restored to its former degree of power, and consequently that of the people lessened. This speech excited excessive indignation. The Tribunes would have thrown Coriolanus from the Tarpeian Rock, while the Patricians sided with him. A civil war seemed likely to ensue, when the Consuls agreed to bring Coriolanus to a trial. Far from shewing any signs of fear, he presented himself to the people at the appointed time, with boldness and confidence. He spoke of the battles he had fought, and the posts he had preserved. He shewed the crowns that had been given to him, and the wounds he had received in gaining them, and reminded them of the lives he had saved. All this had a great effect upon the people, when a fresh charge was brought against *him by the contrivance of one of the Tribunes,*

and he was immediately sentenced to perpetual banishment."

"Oh, mamma! but I do not pity him, he was not in the wrong, I must pity the Romans for losing such a man."

"Before you quite decide upon pitying or admiring Coriolanus, hear the end of his story, my dear Anne. You know how a Christian hero would have conducted himself under such circumstances."

"Oh yes, mamma, he would have grieved, no doubt, but quietly, and would have borne his unjust punishment with patience, hoping that time would shew his innocence."

"But let us suppose that his innocence should not appear, Anne, what then?"

"Then, mamma, he would have felt that it was known to God, and he would still have been happy, but go on."

"Coriolanus, my dear girl, took leave of his mother, wife, and family, with calmness, and left Rome, his heart filled with the desire of vengeance. For this purpose, he threw himself into the power of the Volscian general, Tullus Aufidius, offering either to be punished for the *injuries* he had done the Volscians, or to be *useful* to them in their wars against the Ro-

nans. Tullus received him as a friend, and the Volsci shortly after giving him a joint command of their army with Tullus, he marched into the Roman territory, laying waste all before him. Every town submitted to him, and at last he marched against Rome, and encamped five miles distant from that city."

"Dreadful, mamma! a Roman fighting against his own city. He was no hero; pray continue."

"Sad now was the condition of the unhappy Romans, their pride gave way to fear, and deputies were sent, offering to restore Coriolanus to his country, if he would draw off his army; he received them as general of the Volscians, informing them that if they wished for peace, they must restore the towns formerly taken from that people. The pontiffs, priests, and augurs in vain urged him to retreat from Rome; at last the mother of Coriolanus, followed by his wife, his children, and many of the principal matrons of Rome, knelt before him, to intreat him to spare his country. This Coriolanus could not resist, and exclaiming, 'Oh! my mother, thou hast saved Rome, but lost thy son,' he gave orders to draw off his army, pretending that the city was too strong to be taken. Tullus, who had long envied his

success, represented his conduct in the worst light to the Volscians, and Coriolanus was soon after slain in a tumult. What say you now, Coriolanus, Anne?"

"Mamma, what can I say to a revengeful traitor, for he was false to both parties."

"A very common consequence of not acting upon principle, my love. Had Coriolanus been doing right, he would not have yielded even to the tears of his mother. The Romans rejoiced greatly at the retreat of the Volscian army, and at the request of the women, erected a temple to Female Fortune, in the place where their tears had saved their country. The next remarkable circumstance was an attempt made by Spurius Cassius Viscellinus, who had commanded the army, and defeated the Volscians, to ingratiate himself with the poorer classes of the people by proposing to divide amongst them the lands, formerly taken from the enemy, and which had long been in the possession of the rich. This was the origin of the famous Agrarian law, which, at different times, caused such disturbances in Rome. The indignation excited by the proposal of Cassius was very great, those who had any possessions, united in wishing his ruin; and the people being satis-

with some promises made by the senate, he was accused of trying to become king. The tribunes being his enemies, notwithstanding his real services, he was sentenced to be thrown headlong down the Tarpeian rock, then a common mode of punishment in Rome. Although it was easy to destroy Cassius, the discontent to which he had given rise was more difficult to do away with. Nothing material happened for the next thirty years, beyond the dissensions of the patricians and plebeians, the latter daily increasing in power, and the former giving way to their demands for the time, but refusing to make good their promises when the danger was past. One Appius Claudius, a patrician, rendered himself particularly disagreeable to the people, by his constant opposition to the Agrarian law. Being appointed to lead an army against the Volsci, he rendered himself hateful to the soldiers by his extreme severity. To revenge themselves upon a commander they detested, they resolved to sacrifice their own honour in order to destroy his, and, when the enemy appeared, the Roman army fled before them. As soon as Appius could collect his *scattered forces*, he encamped, and ordered *every centurion* who had fled or quitted his ranks

to be scourged and then beheaded. He afterwards drew out every tenth man, and had him beheaded in the sight of his companions; this was called decimation. It is useless to dwell more upon the unhappy contests respecting the Agrarian law; the power of the patricians seemed lost, and even their possessions they could hardly call their own. On the other hand, many of the soldiers suffered from poverty, and obtained little or no reward for their services."

"Mamma," said Philip, "you have said nothing about my old favorite, Cincinnatus, who lived at the time you are speaking of, and who was respected by both parties, for his moderation and justice."

"I think I cannot leave him in better hands than in yours, my dear boy, so pray mention on what occasion he rendered himself remarkable for those virtues."

"During the disputes between the senate and the people," said Philip, "it was necessary to choose a consul whose character should be such as to call for respect and affection. The choice fell upon Cincinnatus. He had a short time before sold his estates, to pay a sum of *money in which his son had been fined, for increasing the disturbances of the people, and*

lived contentedly on a small farm, which he cultivated himself. The person sent to inform him that he was the choice of the senate, found him in his field, holding his plough; far from being delighted at the honour conferred upon him, that of ruling the Roman people, he grieved that his assistance should be thought necessary, but prepared to depart, saying to his wife, 'I fear, my Attilia, our little field will be uncultivated this year.' Reaching Rome, he joined neither party, but, by his justice and humanity, restored tranquillity to the state. He then laid down his office, and returned to the little farm he loved so dearly. He had not been long at home, when another consul suffered himself to be enclosed with his army, in a narrow pass between two mountains, without a hope of escape being left. The news reaching Rome, the senators, in their distress, recollected Cincinnatus, and created him dictator. Again he was found in his little field, and again he left it, to take upon himself absolute power. For his master of the horse, he chose Torquatus, who, though of high rank, not being rich enough to buy a horse, but anxious to *serve his country in any way, had fought bravely as a common soldier.*"

"Oh, Philip! Torquilius shall be my hero," exclaimed Anne: "that was really loving his country: was it not, mamma?"

"It was indeed, Anne, and I am glad you think so. I agree with you in considering him a greater hero, in conquering his pride for the sake of his country, than those who conquered thousands of its enemies. Continue, Philip, if you please."

"Cincinnatus," resumed Philip, "on arriving at the city, soon collected an army, and putting himself at its head, marched all night, and reached the enemy before day. Immediately, a loud shout was raised, to inform the consul's army that relief was at hand: the imprisoned Romans were, of course, as much delighted as the Equi; the enemy, with whom they were contending, were surprised at finding themselves enclosed in a worse trap than that in which they had shut up the Romans, as they had now an enemy on each side. They offered to yield to Cincinnatus upon his own terms, and he gave them their lives, but obliged them to pass under the yoke."

"*The yoke,—what was that?*"

"*Oh, I had forgotten you did not know. Two spears were set upright in the ground,*

and a third laid across them; passing under these was considered a great disgrace, and a mark of servitude. The plunder of the enemy's camp, Cincinnatus gave to his own soldiers, refusing any of it himself. He then returned to Rome, gave up his dictatorship, which he had only held fourteen days, and once more went back to his dear little cottage. Now, Anne, what do you say to my favorite?"

"That he deserved to have been a Christian, Philip; but let mamma go on."

"I told you, my dear, that every rank of people was discontented, and required change. The Romans had, until now, been governed without any laws, except the judgment of the magistrates; as their decisions were not always agreeable, disturbances often took place, and, at last, all parties agreed in wishing to have a written body of laws, hoping it would put an end to much contention. Accordingly, three senators were chosen, and sent as ambassadors to the Greek cities in Italy, and to Athens, in order to bring home such laws as had been proved by experience to be most useful."

"That, mamma, was the wisest thing the Romans have ever done; laws that had been tried and found useful, must be better than new

comes, make it my person who should happen to possess power."

"But do you suppose, Anne, that what suited one people would be sure to suit another? These ambassadors went in such a manner as should give the world at large an idea of the power of Rome, and after a year's absence they brought back those laws which, afterwards, formed the ten tables, and, with the addition of two more, made the famous code called the laws of the twelve tables, of which there are some remains even to this day. When the ambassadors returned, ten of the principal senators were chosen to arrange these laws, their power was to be absolute, and to continue in force one year. These magistrates were called Decemviri."

"Because there were ten of them, Anne," interrupted Philip.

"The Decemviri agreed to exercise their power in turns, one day at a time; and at first gave satisfaction to all parties, by their moderation. At the end of the year, pretending that there was still something more to arrange respecting the laws, they procured their re-election, and a second decemvirate was formed. They now threw off the mask, and became

tyrants in every sense of the word: yet, as their power was only to continue in force another year, the people bore with their ill-treatment, hoping that it would soon be over. This, however, was not the intention of the Decemviri, for a design was formed by Appius, with the assistance of his colleagues, to retain their power for ever, without the consent of either senate or people. Sad, indeed, was the condition of the Romans, under these harsh masters. Many of the best men were either banished from the city, or left it voluntarily, unwilling to behold the misery of their countrymen. This lasted until the end of the year, when the Decemviri made a law, by which they continued themselves in office. The Equi and Volsci, encouraged by the disputes of the Romans, again appeared in arms."

"Ah! mamma, the old fable of the man, his sons, and the bundle of sticks, that could only be broken when divided!"

"Yes, Anne, its aptness is shown even in the Roman history. The Decemviri were now obliged to ask assistance from the senate, who enabled them to raise and command an army, but such was the general detestation excited by *their present rulers*, that the soldiers suf-

ferred themselves to be defeated, and the news of the defeat was received with joy at Rome. Instances of oppression occurred daily, but two in particular roused the indignation of the people, and ended in this yoke being thrown off. The first was the death of Siccus Dentatus, of whom Philip may like to relate some particulars to-morrow, but we have been so deeply engaged to-day, that I fear we have exceeded the hour allowed by your papa for Philip's stay with us."

CHAPTER V.

"I AM so happy you are come, Philip," cried Anne, as her brother entered the room, "for I have longed for the time of reading to arrive. I have settled it in my mind, that Siccius Dentatus must have been very good, since mamma has given his history into your hands."

"Then pray unsettle it, Anne, as soon as you can, for I believe courage in war will be the only one of his good qualities that I shall have to mention, though he may have had many others; his misfortunes will, however, interest you in his favour. This brave old man had served his country all his life, as a common soldier, and was covered with wounds, chiefly in front."

"*That means, I suppose, that he had never turned his back to his enemies.*"

"Just so, my little sister; well, the only rewards he had gained were crowns, of which he had received many; some for being the first to mount the enemy's walls in besieging cities, and others for saving the lives of his fellow-citizens."

"Then, Philip," exclaimed Anne, "he was humane as well as brave; those were glorious crowns,—but pray go on."

"This old soldier had spoken his mind too freely respecting the Decemviri, and incurred their hatred: it is true, he had reason to complain; but he was desirous to raise dissensions, whenever there was an opportunity, and his appearance, loaded with chains, his body bleeding from the whips of the executioner, created a general tumult."

"But why did they use him so, Philip?"

"Because, as he could not both fight and work, he was in debt, and could not pay."

"Poor old man! that was hard indeed."

"Indeed it was, and so the people thought, and they made him one of their tribunes, which gave him the power of being very troublesome to the Decemviri, who marked him out for *destruction*, and under pretence of an *honourable employment*, he was sent with a party of

soldiers, to examine a place of encampment. These soldiers, being commissioned to assassinate him, led him to a retired spot, where they fell upon him and destroyed him, though not before he had singly killed fifteen and wounded thirty."

"Dreadful, Philip! Could the Romans suffer men guilty of such an action to remain their rulers?"

"They had no choice, my dear Anne," returned Mrs. Stratton; "and it was not until a worse instance of oppression occurred, that they acquired courage to free themselves. Appius, who remained in Rome, while his colleagues were with the army, fell in love with a very beautiful girl, whom he frequently saw passing to the public schools. He enquired her name, and found she was the daughter of Virginus, and betrothed to Icilius, to whom she was to be married, as soon as her father should return home with the army. Being determined to break off this match, he plotted with Claudius, a man as wicked as himself, and the latter entered the school which Virginia attended, and having claimed her as the daughter of his slave, *purchased by Virginus*, was dragging her away, *when the cries of herself and her companions*

brought the people to her assistance. Claudius being prevented in his first design of carrying her away, led her before Appius, then on the seat of justice, and told him his pretended story. The decision of Appius may be imagined; he declared that Claudius had a right to the weeping girl, and commanded the lictors to seize her as his property. This was prevented by Icilius, who, assisted by the people, raised such a tumult, that Appius was forced to put off the final decision as to whose property Virginia was, until the next day, when her supposed father, Virginius, should be sent for from the camp. Appius, in the mean time, sent letters to the generals, desiring them to confine Virginius; but these letters were stopped on the road by the friends of the unhappy father, who immediately flew to Rome; and, to the surprise of Appius, appeared the next day at the appointed time, leading his sorrowing child, both being dressed in deep mourning. Claudius was there also, and produced a female slave, who swore that she was the mother of Virginia, and that she had sold her to Virginius's wife, who *had never had an infant of her own*. Virginius, *in reply, shewed the unlikelihood of such an event remaining so long unknown, if true; de-*

clared that the birth of his child was well known to all his neighbours ; and that, had he adopted an infant, he should have fixed upon a boy, as both he and his wife had been very desirous of having one. Every hearer was convinced that he spoke the truth ; but Appius, as judge, decided that Virginia was the property of Claudius, and commanded the lictors to drive away the people, that the master might seize his slave. Virginus perceived that all hopes of justice were lost, and, appearing to agree in the propriety of the sentence, only entreated to take a last farewell of the child he had so long loved as his own. To this Appius consented, upon condition that the interview should take place in his sight. Virginus now took his half-dying daughter in his arms, and for a while clasped her to his heart, and wiped away her tears ; then suddenly snatching a knife from one of the butcher's shops by the side of the forum, and saying, ' my dear lost child, this only can preserve thy freedom ; ' he plunged it into her bosom, before any one had an idea of his purpose : then, holding up the bloody knife, he exclaimed, ' Appius, by this blood, I devote thy head to the infernal Gods ! ' and immediately mounted his horse, and rode to the camp, where

still holding the bloody knife in his hands, he told his sad story to the army. Asking pardon of the gods, and of his fellow citizens, for what he had been forced to do, he implored the latter, by the blood of his child, to unite with him, and save their country. The army shouted consent, and once more took their station upon Mount Aventine. Appius applied to the senate for assistance; but, far from giving it to him, they sent messengers to the army, offering to restore the ancient form of government. The army joyfully returned to their obedience, and were gladly received by the people at Rome. Appius and Oppius, not daring to trust to the issue of a trial, poisoned themselves in prison, and the remaining eight of the Decemviri went into voluntary exile. The infamous Claudius was also banished."

Anne's attention had been so completely taken up with this sad story, that she allowed her mother to stop, without making a single remark, or even begging her to continue. She was at last roused by Philip exclaiming, "Well, Anne, what say you to Virginius? you know *you are a famous censor.*"

"I suppose, brother, you mean that I like

censuring people ; but you do not, I hope, think me ill-natured."

" My dear Anne, you need not speak so earnestly ; when mamma continues, you will soon discover the meaning of censor. I only meant to call you an examiner of characters, of dead characters ; for, if living persons are spoken of, my dear little sister Anne is the last to censure. She has always an excuse ready for her careless brother, Philip, I am sure," he continued, looking fondly at her ; " but, as you like to weigh the good and the bad of those characters you read of, Anne, I want to know your opinion of Virginius."

" Indeed, brother, I do not think it fair to examine it. We only know one of his actions, committed when he had neither power nor time to use his reason. I cannot judge him, I can only feel for him. And his poor daughter, condemned to be torn from her father and given up to a stranger. Mamma, what sort of a heart could Appius have had ?"

" Indeed, my dear, I fear it was a bad one ; but run and put your bonnet on for a walk."

CHAPTER VI.

THE following day, Anne, having completed her lessons, intreated her mother to go on, and Mrs. Stratton accordingly continued.

“ The next remarkable event in Roman History was the exchange of consuls, for six officers, called military tribunes. Half of them were chosen from the Patricians, the other half from the Plebeians. This form of government did not last long. Consuls were again chosen, with an additional officer called a *censor*. He was to hold his office five years. His business was to examine the lives and conduct of the people, and to keep an account of their numbers. The government continued in this uncertain state for nearly forty years, changing from ~~consuls~~ to military tribunes and dictators

till a new turn was given to public affairs, by the senate resolving to pay the soldiery ; this, though it appeared a very good thing for the lower classes, in effect robbed them of more power than any thing that had happened before. The soldiers could no longer refuse to march where they were ordered, since they were paid for going."

" I see that, mamma ; and I also see that a censor has not the disagreeable meaning attached to it, that I fancied it had.

" Not properly, Anne ; yet it is generally used in speaking of one who finds faults in others. The city of Veii was taken after a ten years' siege by Camillus, who undermined the town, and appeared in the midst of it with his soldiers, to the great astonishment of the Veians."

" Undermining means digging a passage under ground,—does it not ?"

" Yes, Anne," answered Philip ; " and you may prepare to admire Camillus ; for, I think, you can hardly find a fault in him. Was not he both great and good, mamma ?"

" Let Anne judge from his actions, my dear boy. One of those for which he is most celebrated, happened at the siege of Falerii, which he had for some time besieged, without hopes

of a surrender. A schoolmaster, who had under his care the sons of the principal citizens of the city, under pretence of a wish to send these youths into the Roman camp, offered to give them up to Camillus, who might, by this means, obtain possession of the city, and the parents, for the safety of their children would be obliged to submit to his arms. For some time Camillus was unable to speak, from grief and indignation at this treacherous proposal; at last, finding words, he desired the youths to carry his base proposals elsewhere; that he himself, he warred not against helplessness, but against men. Then ordering his hands to be stripped, and his hands to be fastened behind him, he supplied his scholars with whips, with which they whipped him back to the city.

“ Noble, excellent Camillus ! ” exclaimed Philip.

“ Yet, brother,” said Anne, “ I should have liked him better, had he not made the c

"Well, you will allow that he acted nobly, in sending the boys back immediately; will you not?"

"Yes, he acted properly; but had he injured them, he would have been as bad as the school-master."

"My dear Anne," said her mother; "stratagems are allowed in war; and, even in these enlightened days, Camillus would not have been blamed for keeping the boys as pledges for the surrender of their parents; and so charmed were the citizens with his generosity, that they immediately opened their gates, leaving it to the general to name the conditions of their surrender. Camillus fined them a sum of money, and took the city under the protection of the Romans. Notwithstanding his virtues and talents, Camillus was not generally liked at home: he had given great offence, by opposing an emigration of great part of the senate from Rome to Veii, which it was proposed to make into another capital city. He had also obliged the soldiers to refund great part of the spoil taken at Veii, in order that he might fulfil a vow, which he had made, before the taking of that city, of devoting a certain portion of the plunder to the Gods. Several charges were brought

against him by his enemies ; and finding that the people were very bitter against him, Camillus resolved not to wait for a trial, but, embracing his wife and children, left the city. On his road he stopped, and entreated the Gods that his country might one day own the injustice with which he was treated ; he then retired to Ardea."

" To act as Coriolanus did, mamma ?"

" His actions will speak for themselves, Anne. The Gauls, a northern nation of barbarians, had, two hundred years before this, crossed the Alps, and settled in Italy, fixing themselves wherever they found a fertile spot of ground, after driving out the original inhabitants. Fresh tribes continued to arrive ; and, at the time of which we are speaking, a party of these intruders, led by Brennus, their king, were besieging Clusium, a city of Etruria. Terrified at their wild appearance, the citizens entreated the assistance of the Romans. Three young Patricians were accordingly sent as ambassadors, to mediate between the contending parties. On arriving at Clusium, they unfortunately forgot the characters of ambassadors, *in which they came*, and which were then, *as now*, considered sacred, and headed a party

of the citizens in an attack upon the Gauls. This conduct so enraged Brennus, that he complained to the Senate, and, obtaining no redress, marched with his army against Rome. A battle took place, in which the Romans were defeated, and great numbers drowned in attempting to cross the Tiber towards the city. Terror and confusion reigned in Rome; and all those able to carry arms, fortified themselves in the capitol. The old men and women, with the young children, went to seek shelter in the neighbouring towns, while some of the old senators and priests resolved to devote themselves for their country; they accordingly dressed themselves in their robes of state, and, seated on their ivory chairs, awaited the arrival of the conquerors. On the third day after the battle, Brennus entered Rome, which, to his surprise, he found empty. On reaching the forum, they beheld the ancient senators, arranged in order, perfectly silent and motionless. Their venerable appearance awed even the wild soldiers of Brennus; who, taking them for the gods of the place, for some time dared not approach. At last a soldier, more bold than the rest, raised *his hand to stroke the beard of Papyrius*. Such *an insult the old man could not endure, and he*

struck down the Gaul with his ivory sceptre. This was a signal for general destruction. The senators were all immediately slaughtered, with the remainder of the unhappy Romans who still continued in the city, which the Gauls then set on fire and burned to the ground, as well as many of the neighbouring towns. The capitol still remained, and Brennus determining to besiege it, placed his soldiers on every side, by which any person seemed able to enter. For six months the unhappy Romans resisted all the attempts of the Gauls with great bravery; at last their provisions being gone, and great numbers of their companions having perished from fatigue and hunger, nothing seemed to remain, but death or submission to the conqueror. In this dreadful state, a man was seen climbing the rock upon which the capitol was built. This was Pontius Comminus, who had swam across the Tiber in the night, passed through the enemy's guards, and, at the risk of his own life, brought his unhappy countrymen word, that Camillus, their old general, was raising an army, and only waited the orders of *the Romans* to come to their assistance."

"Noble, excellent Camillus, now I call him," *exclaimed Anne*, eagerly; "I like him far bet-

ter for forgiving the ill-treatment he had received, than for any of his former actions. Well, mamma, the poor Romans are saved now; I am so glad."

"Not quite saved, my dear. By the same path by which Comminus had reached the capitol, Brennus commanded a party of Gauls to mount in the night, in order to force an entrance. With difficulty they climbed the rock; reached the very walls; the sentinel was asleep; the dogs even did not bark; victory seemed certain; when some geese, sacred to Juno, and kept in her temple, were alarmed by the noise, and gabbled so loudly, that they roused the garrison. The Romans saw their danger. Manlius was the first who mounted the walls, and threw the two foremost Gauls down the rock. Others came to his assistance, and the walls were soon cleared of the enemy."

"I am sure," said Anne, "a goose ought not to be considered as an emblem of stupidity, since, while the dog, who is always said to denote watchfulness, was asleep, the goose saved Rome."

"Let this be another instance, my dear girl, of the usefulness of the meanest objects in creation. We should despise nothing for its out-

ward appearance, as the lowest of human beings may be of more real utility to his fellow-creatures, than one of more extensive influence; and the smallest of God's works has as much claim to our admiration, as the largest and most shewy. I must now leave off, for I am going out."

CHAPTER VII.

“Now, mamma,” said Anne, the following morning, “we are quite ready; will you proceed if you please, for I am anxious to know how the poor Romans fared. I suppose the messenger had returned to Camillus.”

“Yes; he had immediately been sent back, to accept with gratitude his offers of assistance, and to give him full power, as their dictator, to act as he should think proper. By this time Brennus and his army were quite tired of the siege; and an agreement was made between them and the Romans, that they should retire from Rome, upon receiving one thousand pounds weight of gold. A dispute arose respecting the *quantity*; and, in the midst of some very *insulting* behaviour from the Gauls, Camillus

made his appearance with a large army. He immediately, in quality of dictator, ordered the gold to be carried back to the capitol, saying, that 'not gold, but iron should obtain peace for Rome.' A battle took place, in which the Gauls were completely defeated, and the Romans once more freed. Rome was, however, nothing but a heap of ruins; and again it was proposed, by some of the citizens, to remove to Veii; again Camillus objected, and by his entreaties prevailed upon his countrymen to rebuild their city. Rome was accordingly restored, in part, to its former grandeur and beauty, and Camillus had the glory of being its second founder, three hundred and sixty-nine years after its first foundation. Soon after this, Manlius, who had so nobly driven off the Gauls, endeavouring to seize supreme power, was condemned to be thrown from the Tarpeian rock, by the people, who, with their usual changeableness, immediately afterwards murmured against Camillus for allowing the execution. Being appointed military tribune with L. Furius, he led an army against the Volscians. Furius, *a young man*, was anxious to attack the enemy: Camillus prudently resolved to wait for *a favourable opportunity*. The former, how-

ever, taking advantage of the illness of Camillus, led the army to battle; his troops were defeated and flying; when Camillus, ill and aged, left his bed, restored order, and obtained a victory. At this time, the pride and jealousy of a woman caused a fresh change in the government. A tribune had two daughters, one of whom was married to a Patrician, the other to a Plebeian; the wife of the latter, jealous of the honours shewn to her sister, fell into a lingering illness and melancholy, which, when her father discovered the cause, he determined, if possible, to remove, by procuring that one of the consuls should be chosen from the Plebeians. This attempt caused much dissention, and fresh disputes arose from a law, proposed at the same time, called the Agrarian, which had for its object the division of common lands among the people. During five years, the state was torn to pieces by these quarrels; at last, Camillus, finding that the people would never be satisfied until they had succeeded in having a plebeian consul, advised the Senate to comply with their wishes, and a plebeian consul was chosen. Camillus then resigned the dictatorship, which he had held five times; *built a temple to Concord, which he had vowed to do*

when peace should be restored to his country, and retired from public affairs."

"Did he live much longer, mamma?"

"Only two years; he died of the plague, at the age of eighty-two. Ten years after the admission of the plebeians to the consulship, a dictator was selected from the same rank of people; but this office had now lost its dignity, being resorted to on the most trifling occasions. In the time of a plague, a dictator had been chosen merely to drive a nail into Jupiter's temple, in order to stop the progress of the infection; having done which he laid down his office."

"Philip, are you disposed to relate to your sister the anecdote respecting the gulph which is said to have opened in the forum?"

"I will do it with pleasure, mamma; but are you going to leave us?"

"I am obliged to go upon a little business; therefore Curtius, and some of the heroes about the time we are speaking of, are in your hands."

"Before you begin, brother, will you tell me *whether there was only one forum in Rome.*"

"*There were several; but that built by Romulus, and beautified by Tarquinius, was called*

the forum, while the others had another name added, to distinguish them from the principal one. They were surrounded by porticoes, excepting where entrances were left. The senate sometimes assembled in these porticoes, which were adorned by pictures and statues; and, under their shade, jewellery and other precious goods, were exposed to sale. The comitium was a part of the forum, where the comitia, or general assemblies of the people for voting, were held. In the comitium were the rostra. You often hear of a public speaker mounting the rostrum."

"Yes; the place, I suppose, from whence he makes his speech."

"The rostrum was a sort of pulpit, ornamented with the beaks of ships; in it public speeches were made; and you will often hear in the Roman History, that the heads of famous offenders were placed upon the rostrum. Well, in the forum a great gulph opened, which seemed likely to become larger, and might, in the end, swallow up Rome itself. The augurs were consulted."

"But who were they, brother?"

"*They were soothsayers, or persons that foretold what was to happen, and explained*

what had happened, from the flight of birds, from appearances in the heavens, from beasts, or, indeed, from any natural circumstance, that they chose to consider as strange or wonderful."

"And could any body believe them?"

"The common people, I suppose, did believe them in reality; and the kings and rulers found it necessary to pretend to do so, in order to persuade the people, at times, to do as they wanted them. You know they had no true religion to regulate their conduct, therefore they were obliged to invent some false tie to keep the lower classes in order, and to frighten them into doing right."

"So, I suppose, these augurs were a sort of priests."

"Yes; they took their name from the Latin words for the actions or chirping of birds, and were consulted in every difficulty. Having examined some of their sacrifices, they declared that the gulph would never close, unless what was most valuable to the Romans should be thrown into it."

"Well, they made sure of not appearing wrong, whatever might be put in, as who could exactly tell what the Romans valued the most."

" Their answers were generally given in that doubtful manner, I suppose, to save their own credit. In this case, Curtius, a young Roman, dressed himself in complete armour, and, mounting his horse, declared that nothing could be of so much value to Rome as courage and patriotism. He then leaped into the gulph, which, it is said, closed immediately."

" This is a strange story, brother ; but, if true, Curtius acted very nobly. He gave up his life for his country, and that ought to be of value to his countrymen ; therefore, whether his jumping into the gulph were the cause of its closing, or not, they ought to be grateful to him. I think that mamma spoke of some other persons that I was to enquire about."

" Yes," said Philip ; " and I conclude she meant the three Decii, who all devoted themselves for their country, though at very different times. The first was consul with Manlius, whose history I must first tell you. In his youth he was not a clever boy, and he stammered when he spoke ; these defects made his father dislike him, and he kept him in the country, where he is said to have treated him very harshly, and to have made him labour with his slaves. The severe temper of his father had made him many

enemies, one of whom accused him publicly of ill-treating his son, and he seemed in a fair way to be punished for doing so, when the younger Manlius heard of it. He immediately set off for Rome, and reached the house of his father's accuser before he was out of bed. As it was supposed that he came to bring some information which would help to condemn the father, he was admitted directly to the tribune's chamber. But what was the surprise of the latter, when young Manlius immediately seized him, and forced him, by shewing him his dagger, and threatening to kill him, to take an oath to give up all proceedings against his father. You will say he took a very violent method to save him, but it succeeded; and the people liked his conduct so much, that he was soon after made a military tribune. In this situation he was so fortunate as to kill an enormous Gaul, who challenged the bravest man in Rome. The chain (torquis) which the Gaul wore, was presented to him, and he received the surname of Torquatus. In a war with the Latins some time after, he and Decius Mus were *consuls*, and commanded the army. A terrible battle took place. The Latins and Romans *being such near neighbours*, of course, dressed

like each other and spoke the same language ; it was necessary, therefore, to keep the strictest order, to prevent confusion. Manlius, in consequence, declared, that not any soldier whatever was to leave his ranks, be the cause what it might, under pain of instant death. Before the attack began, Metius, the Latin general, came forward and challenged any Roman knight to single combat. For some time none dared to disobey his general's orders; all were silent, until Metius repeating his challenge, and taxing the Romans with cowardice, Titus Manlius, the son of the consul, could no longer restrain his impetuosity and desire of vindicating himself and fellow-soldiers from the disgrace of being called cowards : he advanced to meet the challenger, and both armies eagerly watched the combat, which ended in the death of Metius. Manlius was the conqueror, and took the armour of his enemy, to carry it in triumph to his father's tent."

" Poor Manlius and poor Titus," said Anne ; " I hardly know which to pity most, for the feelings of both must be so mixed. The younger could not enjoy a triumph which he had only *gained by disobeying his father and his general; and the elder, while he felt proud of his son's*

courage, could not pardon in him what in any other was to be instant death."

"Indeed, they are both to be pitied," returned Philip; "and we are told, that Titus modestly approaching his father, and laying his spoils before him, declared that a Latin warrior had challenged him, and that he had fought and conquered. 'Unhappy boy,' said his father, 'you have disobeyed both your consul and your father; and I must either give up my son or my country,—you will not, I am sure, refuse to die, when such is the alternative.—You will, I feel persuaded, be happy to think that your present obedience to the commands of your general, may atone for your contempt of his former orders.' Saying this, he first crowned him as a victor, and then caused his head to be struck off, amidst the tears of the whole army. His body was then buried with military honours; and his countrymen lamented the courage he had shewn in such a mistaken cause. It was in this same battle that the elder Decius signalized himself. The Roman army gave way before the Latins. Now the Augurs *had foretold*, indeed it was an old idea, that *where an army was defeated, if the general of that army devoted himself to the gods, his party*

would be victorious. It being the part of the army which Decius commanded that was driven back, he resolved to offer his own life to save his friends. Accordingly, taking off his armour, and putting on his purple robe, his head being covered with a veil, and himself standing upon a javelin, he called upon the gods to save Rome and her armies ; declared that he devoted himself to the gods Manes, and, mounting his horse, plunged into the midst of the enemy. You may easily fancy that the Latins were astonished, and that surprise prevented them for a little time from exerting themselves ; however, recovering themselves, they attacked Decius on every side, and he was soon destroyed."

"And which side conquered, brother?"

"The Romans ; for they were as much encouraged as the Latins were disheartened, by seeing the self-devotion of the consul, and fought with such bravery, that the Latin army was nearly destroyed, and they were obliged to entreat for peace ; but here is mamma, to go on with her account."

"Thank you, Philip, but I thought you mentioned three Deciuses."

"Three Decii you mean ; yes, I did. The father, son, and grandson, all acted in the same

way, of course at different times ; but there is no need to give farther particulars, as the ceremony would be the same with each. Papa pointed out some lines translated from Juvenal, when I was reading this part of the Roman history, which I think you would like. I will fetch them."

Away ran Philip, and returning directly, he read the following lines :

' From a mean stock the pious Decii came,
Small their estates, and vulgar was their name ;
Yet such their virtue, that their loss alone
For Rome and all our legions could atone :
Their country's doom they by their own retriev'd,
Themselves more worth than all the host they sav'd.'

"Those are pretty lines, and I like them, because I can understand them, brother. I shall not forget Decius, I am sure, now. Mamma, will you continue the history ?"

"I will, my dear."

"The Roman dominions were now double what they had been under the reigns of their kings, but as yet they had only contended with near neighbours. They had triumphed over the *Sabines*, the *Etrurians*, the *Latins*, the *Hernici*, the *Æqui*, and the *Volsci*, and they began to wish for greater conquests. They accordingly

turned their arms against the Samnites, a people one hundred miles from Rome."

"What! without having any thing to complain of, mamma?"

"When people are determined to quarrel, Anne, a reason for doing so is easily found, and the Romans soon discovered one in the war between the Samnites and Campanians, the latter of whom had entreated the assistance of Rome. In the war with the Samnites, the Roman general having suffered himself to be hemmed in on every side by the enemy, was compelled by Pontius, the Samnite general, to pass with his troops under the yoke, after having been stripped of all but their under garments."

"The yoke, mamma! I often hear of persons being obliged to submit to such or such a yoke; I knew it was some disagreeable thing, which they could not help, but I did not know what it arose from, till you mentioned it a little while ago."

"The Romans were exasperated to the highest degree at this disgrace, and did not rest until they had obliged the enemy in their turn to submit to the same. After this, the power of the Romans continued to increase, as that of the Samnites grew less, although they were assisted by

most of the small southern states of Italy. At last, finding it impossible to check the progress of the all-conquering Romans, the Italian States united in entreating the aid of Pyrrhus, king of Epirus. This prince, one of the best generals of his age, desired nothing more than a pretence for engaging in a war ; he readily promised to come to the assistance of the States of Italy, and with a very large army, in which elephants were made useful, landed at Tarentum. He at first offered to mediate between the contending parties, but this being refused by the Romans, a battle was fought near the river Lyliss."

"Mamma, before you go on, may I tell Anne the anecdote of Pyrrhus and the Tarentines, upon his first arrival there ; it will just suit her, I think."

"Certainly, my dear boy."

"The Tarentines, you must know, Anne, were a very luxurious nation, who thought of little but feasting, dancing, and fine clothes. Pyrrhus endeavoured to make them think more seriously, and tried to reform them by shutting up their places of public amusement, &c. This conduct raised the anger of the people in general, and *some young men*, who were accused of *speaking disrespectfully* of him, he caused to com

before him. The young men did not deny the charge, but saved themselves from punishment by throwing the blame upon the wine. 'Yes,' they said, 'we did say all this of you, and we should have said still more, if we had not drunk all our wine.' This excuse seemed so ingenious to Pyrrhus, that he only smiled, and let them go."

"It is a good anecdote, brother ; but every body must acknowledge the folly of drunkenness. Now, mamma, for the battle."

"In this engagement, the two celebrated bodies of troops, the Greek phalanx, and the Roman legion, encountered each other."

"What do those words mean, mamma?"

"Philip will be able to explain them better than I shall, Anne, so I leave it to him."

"I find, in Potter, that the Macedonian phalanx was a body of soldiers carrying pikes, so closely placed, that the pikes of the hindmost men rested upon the shoulders of those before them, and the shields being joined, formed a defence that it was almost impossible to break through. The form of the phalanx was a long square, and, sometimes, the middle men being *placed back to back*, formed a front on each of the four sides. The Roman legion was merely

a body of soldiers, disciplined and arranged in the Roman manner. The word legion answers to our word regiment. For a long time success seemed doubtful ; at last, Pyrrhus brought his elephants into the midst of the fight. The Romans, who had never seen such enormous animals before, thought them prodigies sent for their destruction, and were thrown into confusion. The terrified horses rushed back, and were no longer under the command of their riders. A dreadful slaughter followed. Pyrrhus remained the conqueror, but not till he had lost so many of his followers, that he exclaimed that another such victory would ruin his whole army. Upon walking through the field of battle, and observing the firm countenances of the dead Romans, he is said to have cried out, ‘with what ease could I conquer the world, with the Romans for soldiers.’ Several other battles followed, in which each party was occasionally successful.”

“Mamma,” interrupted Philip, “as this was the age of Roman virtue, will you not dwell more particularly upon some of the characters, that Anne may see their change in morals as well as government?”

“I thought, Philip, I had been rather too prolix already, in my accounts of Camillus and

others ; but as the examination of virtuous characters must be productive of good, by their example, and you wish it, I will be particular in relating what is interesting in the histories of some of your favourite heroes. Pyrrhus was, by this time, acquainted with the power and courage of the people he came to fight against, and, foreseeing that in conquering them he must destroy his own army, he resolved, if possible, to make peace, and, accordingly, sent Cineas, the orator, to use all the arts of eloquence and persuasion for that purpose. The first step of Cineas, on reaching Rome, was to endeavour to influence the Roman senators and their wives, by presents. To his astonishment, both the men and women refused his gifts, telling him to inform his master, that when the senate accepted his friendship, they would receive his presents. By the Licinian law, the fortunes of the senators having been reduced nearly to a level with those of the people, they were obliged to seek distinction in virtue alone."

"What was the Licinian law, mamma?"

"It was a law first proposed by a man of the name of Licinius, and which prevented any *person from possessing more than a fixed quantity of land.*"

"And, Anne," exclaimed Philip, "the very man that first proposed it, was soon after fined for trying to evade it."

"That is not very surprising, brother; for we often think others ought to be punished for faults which we commit ourselves. This Licinius was, however, no patriot; he wanted, I suppose, when he was poor, to see others so also. Well, mamma!"

"Cineas found that all his offers, public or private, his flattery of the Romans, and his praises of his master, were without effect; the only answer he could obtain was, that when Pyrrhus left Italy, they would treat with him about peace. Cineas finding he could not get any thing by staying at Rome, returned to his master, whom he told that the Romans were a nation of kings."

"What kings should be, I suppose, mamma; for all kings are not good."

"Certainly, my dear. An embassy was shortly after sent from Rome to Pyrrhus, to settle about an exchange of prisoners. At the head of the ambassadors, came Fabricius, an old senator, who had formerly been consul, and was famous *not only for his poverty, but for his cheerfulness under it.* Although his rank was so high,

the only piece of plate his house contained was a silver cup, and even the bottom of that was horn ; yet, when the Samnites had some time before offered him large presents, he had refused them, saying, he was already rich enough, for that he had learned to desire only those things which it was in his power to obtain. Pyrrhus, having heard much of this old Roman's virtue, in order to prove him, offered him gifts of value, which being refused, the next day he endeavoured to frighten him, and, for this purpose, placed an enormous elephant behind him, which, at a signal given, raised his trunk in a threatening manner over Fabricius's head. The old man only smiled, telling Pyrrhus, that he cared no more for the terrors he threatened him with to-day, than he had done for the pleasures offered him the day before. Admiring his virtue, Pyrrhus resolved to gratify him in the only way it seemed possible to do so ; and releasing the Roman prisoners, he entrusted them to Fabricius, upon his only promising to return them if the war should be continued."

"Mamma, I like Pyrrhus as much for his manner of pleasing Fabricius, as I admire Fabricius for deserving to be so treated. 'T

man who could so trust to the word of another, could not have been false to his own promise."

"I think not, my dear Philip; another battle soon followed, in which, although the Romans were again defeated, Pyrrhus lost a considerable part of his troops. Before the two armies again met, Fabricius, who was chosen consul, received a letter from the physician of king Pyrrhus, offering, for a reward, to poison his master, and deliver the Romans from their dangerous enemy, which would end the war. Great was the indignation of Fabricius at such an infamous proposal, and, after consulting with the other consul, the letter was sent back to Pyrrhus, lamenting that, while he trusted and favoured such a wretch, he was fighting against the generous and brave. Pyrrhus received this letter with mixed feelings of surprise at the generosity of the Romans, and anger at the treachery of his physician, and broke out into the celebrated exclamation of 'Admirable, Fabricius! it would be as easy to turn the sun from his course, as to make thee move out of *the paths of honour.*' He instantly ordered *the Roman prisoners* to be sent back to Rome *without ransom*, and again offered to tre

about peace. The Romans in return released an equal number of prisoners, but refused peace on any other conditions than before.—Another battle followed, in which the Romans were victorious; they had become accustomed to the elephants, and, by throwing fire-balls amongst them, had rendered them useless. Pyrrhus now finding he had no longer any hope of success, resolved to quit Italy; he accordingly called together the Tarentines, informed them that he was wanted at home, and took his leave of them for ever.”


“ What became of him, mamma ? ”

“ He was killed by the hand of a woman, who threw a tile upon his head, as he was trying to take the city of Argos. Tarentum soon after fell into the power of the Romans. This appears to have been the time when this great people were most celebrated for the practice of virtue. A contempt of riches, and a love of frugality pervaded all classes; and their fame was spread to such distant regions that Ptolemy Philadelphus sent ambassadors to solicit their friendship. This is, I think, a good opportunity for us to leave off until to-morrow.”

CHAPTER VIII.

“MAMMA, you said yesterday that the Romans had reached their highest point of goodness ; I fear then that they will grow wicked, for you have often told me that we cannot stand still, but that we must either become better or worse.”

“That remark, my dear Anne, does not so much apply to a nation, which is formed of many different characters, some of whom may be improving, while others are degenerating, or, as you call it, growing worse, as to the human disposition, taken singly, which I firmly believe can never be stationary ; for, unless the best of men be constantly on their guard to improve every passing moment, they may be led *into many faults*, merely from not supposing it *possible they could commit them*. Even St.



Paul speaks of constant exertion, lest he, himself, whilst correcting others, should become a castaway. However this may be, we will continue our story, and let the Roman character be judged from that. About this time, a great change took place in the Romans. They had become acquainted with foreign nations, which had polished their manners, and the refinements and elegances of Greece were introduced into Rome: this caused their artisans to become more numerous."

"Artisan, mamma?"

"Artisan, my love, means one who follows some art or trade."

"Then war did produce some advantages to them, mamma?"

"Yes, but it also brought with it disadvantages also: the number of husbandmen or labourers grew less, and enough corn was not raised to supply their increased numbers; they were, consequently, obliged to procure it from foreign countries, and, as Sicily had the largest quantity to dispose of, they began to wish for the possession of a country which would be so useful to them. A pretence was soon found for *interfering in its affairs*. The Carthaginians, at that time, possessed the greatest part of!

Island of Sicily, and only wanted a pretence to seize the whole. The king of Syracuse, one of the unconquered states, entreated their assistance against the Mamertines, who were also still independent. The Carthaginians eagerly seized the opportunity, by encouraging the quarrels of the natives, of increasing their own power, and sent the assistance asked for. The Mamertines, on their side, put themselves under the protection of the Romans, who immediately declared war against Carthage, giving as a reason, that that city had formerly assisted the southern states of Italy against them. Thus commenced the first of those wars between Rome and Carthage, called Punic Wars."

Why so, mamma?"

The word Punic is a corruption of Phæni or Poeni, which name belonged to the Carthaginians, who were originally a Phœnician colony. The Carthaginians, it is said by the Roman historians, were so remarkable for being faithless to their engagements, that the word Punicus, or Carthaginian, became synonymous with false or treacherous, in which sense it is used by the *Roman poets*; but as this is an assertion of *their enemies*, it ought, probably, to be received *with some doubt*. The power of these two great

and rival states arose from very different sources. That of Carthage lay in her immense riches, which enabled her to pay and support large armies; while that of Rome consisted in the patriotism, courage, and disinterestedness of her citizens. Till now, the Romans had not possessed any fleet, which rendered them inferior to Carthage, which had a very large one; but a Carthaginian vessel being thrown upon their coast by a storm, they set to work to imitate it, and built one hundred and twenty ships, which were clumsy certainly, but strong, and their men were taught to row upon land."

"Upon land, mamma? how very odd!"

"It seems so, my love, but it teaches us a very useful lesson;—try if you can find it out."

"I suppose you mean, that it shews that perseverance can overcome every difficulty."

"Indeed it does, my dear, and the Romans soon learned to manage their fleet in such a manner as to defeat that of the Carthaginians. Dullius, their admiral, was allowed a triumph, and Regulus, the consul, took the islands of Lipara and Melita."

"That is the same island mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, now called Malta, is it not?"

"Yes, it is. Agrigentum in Sicily, and Alb

ria in Corsica, were also taken ; but these successes were not sufficient to satisfy the expectations of the people, and the bold scheme was formed, of carrying the war into Africa."

" Why, mamma ?"

" The city of Carthage, Anne, stood where Tunis is now placed. It was built by a colony of Phœnicians. It had extended its dominions along the northern coast of Africa, and possessed many of the islands in the Mediterranean Sea. Carrying the war into Africa was, therefore, attacking the Carthaginians at home, and a fleet of three hundred sail was put under the command of Regulus and Manlius. Regulus was one of the greatest men that Rome had produced ; he was frugal to an excess, and more severe upon his own faults than upon those of others, and all his private feelings gave way to his love of his country. Under the joint command of him and Manlius, the fleet set sail, met the Carthaginians at sea, dispersed them, and, having taken fifty-four ships, landed in Africa, where they took the city of Clypæ, and twenty thousand men. On the banks of the river Bagrada, it is related that Regulus had a most *extraordinary* enemy to combat with. This was a *monstrous* serpent, one hundred and twenty

feet long, whose scales no weapon could cut through. The disagreeable smell caused by this dreadful animal, and the terror it excited in the soldiers, were so great, that they declared they would rather face the whole army than encounter it. For some time, even with the machines used in war, they were unable to destroy it, but at last its spine was broken by a large stone, and its skin was stuffed and sent to Rome."

"Can this be true, mamma?"

"I can only say that its skin is said to have been at Rome in the time of Pliny. A battle took place, in which the Romans were victorious, and above eighty of the Carthaginian towns submitted to them. The Carthaginians, in despair, sent to Lacedæmon, to offer the command of their armies to Xantippus, a very celebrated general, and, at the same time, solicited Regulus for peace. This general, the commander of so powerful an army, was so poor, that, in entreating the senate to recal him, he had stated, that, his steward being drunk, his servants had stolen his agricultural implements."

"That means plough, harrow, spades, &c., Anne," interrupted Philip.

"In consequence of which," continued *another*, "Regulus informed his country

that, if he did not return to look after his little farm, his wife and children would be in danger of starving. The senate, instead of granting his entreaty for recall, ordered a sum of money to be given to his wife and children, and his farming stock to be replaced at the public expense, and commanded Regulus to remain, and continue the war. Regulus was willing to grant peace to the Carthaginians, but upon such hard terms that they broke off the treaty. In the mean time Xantippus, who had arrived from Sparta, took the command of the Carthaginian army, and disposed it in such a masterly manner, that the Romans were defeated, and the greatest part of their army destroyed. Regulus was taken prisoner, and thrown into a dungeon, where, for four years, he was treated with the greatest severity. In the mean time, the Carthaginians continued to succeed, and the Romans to fail in their undertakings ; yet peace was still desired by the former people, and it was at last determined to send to Rome to treat about it, or at least to obtain an exchange of prisoners. Thinking that Regulus would be likely to persuade his countrymen to agree to both, in order to obtain his own liberty, he was despatched to Rome, having first given his promise to return,

if the demands of Carthage were not granted. On his approaching Rome, many of his old friends came out to meet him, and welcome him home, but Regulus positively refused to enter the city, and seemed dead to the caresses of his wife, who presented to him his two children. 'I am no longer,' said he, 'a Roman citizen, but a Carthaginian slave.' The senate, in consequence of this refusal, assembled outside the walls of the city, and Regulus being commanded to give his opinion upon what was most desirable, to the surprise of all, advised not only the continuance of the war, but a refusal to exchange prisoners; saying, that the Carthaginian prisoners in the hands of the Romans being young men, could be of infinite use to their country, while the Romans, then at Carthage, were worn out veterans, who could only return to die by their fire-sides. The senate were unwilling to sacrifice the man who could so far forget himself in his love of his country, and the debate was ended by Regulus rising to return to his chains. In vain he was urged to stay in Rome, his friends, nay, even the Pontifex Maximus, chief priest, himself telling him that *a forced promise could not be binding*. 'What *is* life to me,' he exclaimed, 'if I have forfeited

my word. Torture is far better than such a disgrace.' True to his promise, he returned to the Carthaginians, who, in their rage and disappointment, put him to death in the most barbarous manner, having first, it is said, cut off his eye lids, and exposed him to the burning rays of the African sun, and then rolled him in a barrel stuck full of iron spikes."

"Dreadful, mamma!" said Anne: "who can like so barbarous a nation?"

"I am sorry to say, my love, the Romans acted but little better. They sent, in return, some Carthaginian prisoners to the widow of Regulus, who, it is said, revenged herself for the ill-treatment of her husband by inflicting upon them the most cruel tortures."

"Worse and worse, mamma: you had reason, indeed, to say that the heathens had many vices amongst their most dazzling virtues, since a woman could be so cruel and revengeful."

"And be unblamed also, my child. Christianity alone teaches us to do good to those who hate us. Forgiveness of injuries was not only a virtue unknown to the ancients, but the person who failed to take revenge upon his enemy, *when in his power*, was thought mean-spirited and cowardly! After this, the war continued

with greater fury than ever, until the loss of another battle so humbled the Carthaginians, that they agreed to pay an immense sum of money, defray the expenses of the war, leave Sicily and the neighbouring islands, never make war upon the friends of Rome, and give up all the Roman prisoners without ransom. Thus ended the first Punic War, after a continuance of twenty-four years."

CHAPTER IX.

“A PROFOUND peace followed the end of the first Punic War,” resumed Mrs. Stratton, the following morning; “and, six years after, the Temple of Janus was closed, for the second time only since the foundation of the city.”

“What could they do without war, mamma?” asked Anne: “it seemed to occupy all their time and thoughts.”

“It did indeed, Anne; but, about this time they began to take pleasure in poetry. Plays were introduced into Rome, and the Romans began to cultivate the arts of peace. These new pursuits did not prevent them from making preparations for fresh wars, and Illyria and Gaul soon felt their power. The Carthaginians who had only submitted to make peace, fr

being unable to continue the war, broke the treaty between them and the Romans, by besieging Saguntum, a city in Spain, in alliance with Rome. This they were led to do by their general, Hannibal, whose character has been so celebrated in history, that I must dwell upon it. When only ten years of age, his father, Hamilcar, had made him swear, by his Gods, never to make peace with Rome."

"What, swear to hate for ever ! Oh, mamma, that religion must have been a dreadful one, that could permit such a promise. I never can like this Hannibal, I am sure : but pray go on."

"Hannibal, my dear girl, had great qualities, but they were sadly mixed with vices. By being perfectly obedient to those superior to himself, he learned how to command those under him. Full of courage when danger approached, yet always on the watch to prevent it, he neither feared heat, cold, nor hunger, and was always ready when his country was in want of him. He dressed and fared like the meanest of his soldiers, and no difficulties could discourage him from the task he undertook. I wish I could *stop here*; yet justice compels me to *add, that he had neither religion, honour, nor humanity.* The command being entrusted

him, he resolved to follow the example set by the Romans, and to carry the war into Italy. Crossing the Pyrenean mountains, he conquered those nations which opposed him, passed the rivers Rhone and Dura, and in ten days reached the foot of the Alps. Being the middle of winter, the difficulties he met with in crossing these high snow-topped mountains were extreme; nothing, however, discouraged him. The intense cold, the rocks thrown upon his army by the inhabitants, the steep precipices, the roads to be made by cutting through the rock,—his perseverance surmounted all; and he met, and defeated, Scipio, the Roman general, at Ticinum. On the banks of the river Trebia he was again successful, and, in consequence of the rash and presuming character of Flaminius, that general was conquered by him on the banks of the lake Thrasymene. The battle of Cannæ—

“My dear mamma,” said Philip, “before you relate what took place at that celebrated battle, may I say something about Fabius, for I know Anne will like to hear it?”

“Certainly, Philip, if you wish it.”

“Then Anne, I must first tell you, that the *Romans were so discouraged by such repeated defeats, that they entrusted a wise old Roman*

with supreme power ; his name was Fabius. His courage was well known, and his prudence was equal to it. He was careful in forming his plans, and firm in keeping to what he considered the right. Thinking that it would be more to his interest to tire and wear out Hannibal's troops, than to fight them, he would not let any thing tempt him to come to a battle. In vain Hannibal tried every means of making him fight ; he even suffered himself to be thought cowardly, ignorant, and faithless, he would not fight when he felt he was acting wisely in refusing to do so. At last, he was obliged to leave his army for a time, and, in his absence, his master of the horse, Minutius, disobeyed his orders of not giving the enemy battle, gained some trifling advantages over the Carthaginians, and by general consent was made equal in power to the dictator, Fabius, and entrusted with the command of half the army. Minutius resolved now not to follow the prudent advice of Fabius ; he allowed Hannibal to lead him into a battle, in which he must have been totally defeated, had not Fabius fortunately arrived. That general had been to Rome to procure money to ransom the Roman prisoners, and being refused it, had sold his own estate to

He was both surprised and grieved at finding what had happened, but immediately went to the assistance of his imprudent officer, who, feeling his folly, confessed it to Fabius, whom he called by the name of father, and giving up his power, placed himself under his direction. Fabius soon after laid down his office, and Æmilius and Varro were appointed. These new commanders differed in character like Fabius and Minutius ; Æmilius was wise and cautious, Varro vain and presuming ; but I have now come to the battle of Cannae, so pray tell me, Anne, if you have liked my hero ?”

“ Indeed, brother, I admire and like both your heroes, for it is so difficult to confess ourselves in the wrong, that I think Minutius shewed as much real bravery as Fabius. What do you say, mamma, am I right ?”

“ I think you are, Anne ; those persons are indeed brave who acknowledge their faults, and misfortunes cannot be considered such to those whose lives are made better by them.”

“ Fabius was a true hero too, mamma, for he suffered in order to do right.”

“ *He did, my love. When, shortly after, Fabius had resigned his office, Æmilius and Varro were appointed consuls ; like the commanders*

of whom Philip has just been speaking, their characters were very different ; the first experienced and cautious, while Varro was vain and rash. They commanded by turns, and you may guess the consequences. Varro engaged in battle, when he had the power of leading, and the Romans were totally defeated. After doing all that a brave man could do for his country, *Æmilius* was found by *Lentulus*, half dead, sitting upon a stone, unable to fly from his enemies, who he expected would come upon him every moment. The generous *Lentulus* immediately urged him to mount his own horse and let him defend him from his pursuers, but *Æmilius* was not to be persuaded to save his life at the expense of that of another : he thanked his friend, but desired him to save himself, and tell the senate to fortify Rome against *Hannibal*. Before *Lentulus* was out of sight, the enemy came up, and he saw *Æmilius* expire covered with wounds. So complete had been *Hannibal's* victory, that it was expected he would march directly to Rome, and very great was the terror of the inhabitants ; but from some reasons which are not known, the Carthaginian general led his troops to Capua, to pass the winter in that city, where the luxury they gave

themselves up to, did what neither their long march, their hardships, nor the Roman arms had been able to effect,—it destroyed the army. Drunkenness and riot ruined their health, and robbed them of their courage and their character.”

“Sad indeed, mamma ; but what became of the unhappy Varro ? did he die, or did he return to Rome to be punished ?”

“Neither, my dear Anne, he escaped death with a very few of his troops, and the Romans shewed their generosity, by thanking him for the courage he had shown, instead of blaming him for want of that prudence and humility which he ought to have had.”

“That was generous of them indeed, mamma.”

“The good fortune of Hannibal,” resumed her mother, “is now going to leave him ; from this time his ill success was as remarkable as his former prosperity had been. At Carthage, his enemies prevented the necessary supplies of men and money from being sent to him ; while the Romans, whose courage seemed to rise as they were defeated, not only defended *themselves* at home, but sent troops into Spain and Sardinia, made war against Philip, king of Macedon, with success, and took the city of

Syracuse, which was defended by the celebrated mathematician, Archimedes. Marcellus, the Roman general, it is said, had given orders that his life should be spared, but he was put to death by a Roman soldier, being too much engaged in working a problem, to think of the confusion around him."

"Do you think that possible, mamma?"

"It seems improbable, Anne; but you must remember that he was engaged in studies which enabled him to defend both himself and his fellow citizens. By means of burning glasses, he had set fire to the enemy's ships, some hundred yards distant, and his machines had raised their vessels in the air, and then allowing them to fall, had dashed them to pieces. We may conclude, therefore, that his attention, when engaged in study, would be very intense, which, joined to the confusion which must have existed for a long time, might render him insensible to what was immediately passing, until too late. At the time we are speaking of, the younger Scipio came into notice; this young man, as famous for his virtues as for his abilities, had, at the battle of Ticinum, saved his father's life, at the hazard of his own. After the unfortunate battle of Cannae, he had shown his bold

firmness of character, by opposing himself singly to those persons who had determined to quit the city ; and an anecdote of his generosity while in Spain, has been the subject of many poets, painters, and engravers."

" Oh pray relate it, mamma."

" I will leave Philip to do that, for I am engaged on business now."

Philip accordingly commenced.—" At the taking of New Carthage, or Carthagena, Scipio showed his humanity by preventing his soldiers from killing those who submitted to them and begged for mercy."

" But could any man be so cruel as to do otherwise, brother ?"

" Indeed they could, Anne ; the more they destroyed, enemies I mean, remember, the braver they were thought ; so Scipio acted differently to others. Amongst the prisoners brought before him was a very beautiful princess, engaged to be married to a prince of that country, who was very fond of her. Scipio sent to desire that both her parents and lover would come to him, at which they were all much distressed, *thinking that the conqueror wished to marry her himself.* They arrived with a large sum of *money, which the parents offered in exchange*

for their daughter, while the prince begged that he might be accepted as a slave in the place of the woman he loved. You may imagine the astonishment of the whole party, when Scipio desired the prince to take his bride, for that all he wanted was his friendship. The happy parents begged him to accept the money for the ransom of their daughter, which he obliged them by doing, but immediately made a present of it to the young lady as a marriage gift."

"How delighted they must have been with him, Philip; that is a very interesting anecdote."

"On leaving Scipio, all but the princess talked with delight of his goodness, generosity, and pleasing manners; but she said nothing. Her lover at last asked her what she thought of him; I did not notice him, she answered. Then what could you be thinking of? asked the astonished prince. I could only think of the generous man who offered his own liberty for mine."

"Oh, that was himself, of course; well, she had reason to think much of him; but she might have had a little gratitude and notice to bestow upon the other generous man, who was making *hem* all happy, 'Thank you, Philip.'"

CHAPTER X.

"WELL Anne, did Philip's account of Scipio make you wish for further particulars of him or not?"

"It did indeed, pray begin."

"Scipio, at this part of his history, was twenty-four years of age, and at twenty-nine he returned from Spain, and was made consul. He immediately determined to carry the war into Africa, where he was joined by Masinissa, who had been driven from his own kingdom of Numidia, by the usurping Syphax. Upon this the Carthaginians recalled Hannibal, whose disappointment was extreme at being obliged to *leave Italy*, of whose most fertile parts he had *been master* for above fifteen years. He obeyed *the order*, it is said, with tears of sorrow, know-

ing it to be the only place where the Roman power could effectually be resisted. Landing in Africa, he soon reached Zama, where Scipio met him. Hannibal was well aware that his troops were much less in number than those of the Romans, he therefore determined, if possible, to end the war, without coming to an engagement; for this purpose, he requested an interview with Scipio. The two greatest generals of the age met, and are said to have looked at each other for some time without speaking, each being anxious to examine the man who had made himself so celebrated for courage and conduct."

"But their feelings must have been very different, mamma; they were such different men."

"They were different in every way, Anne. Scipio was young, and is described as very handsome; full of warm youthful feelings, we may suppose that he could not look at the successful, but ill-used old general, whose worn appearance showed how much he had done and suffered for his ungrateful country, without respect, mingled with pity at what was likely to be his fate. Hannibal, on the other hand, however cold he had become, could not behold the noble appearance of the young soldier, without

thinking of what he had been himself. I must not make my story too long by relating their conversation, it is sufficient to say that they could not come to any agreement, and the battle of Zama took place, in which, although Hannibal is said to have shown more skill than in any of his former exploits, he was totally defeated; and after doing all that a great general and good soldier could do, he fled to Admetum. A peace followed, by the Carthaginians submitting to the terms required by the Romans. They were much harder than before; they were to pay 10,000 talents in fifty years, to give up all their ships and elephants, to resign Spain and all the islands in the Mediterranean Sea, and not to make war in Africa without the consent of the Romans. Thus ended the second Punic War, which had lasted seventeen years. Scipio returned in triumph to Rome, and was surnamed Africanus.—We are now to behold a change in the Roman character which you will grieve for. By the conquest of so many countries, great riches and many slaves had been brought into Rome; they acquired a taste for pleasures which they had not known before. *Their wealth purchased those articles of luxury or necessity, which formerly they had either no*

wished for or made for themselves, and their slaves cultivated those fields which were formerly tilled by a Cincinnatus and a Fabricius. Their love of their country and the public good changed into a love of themselves and a selfish vanity. In the mean time they continued the war with Philip of Macedon, who was obliged to buy a peace, when the Romans showed their generosity by restoring freedom to the Grecian states. During this time, the Gauls, Ligurians, and Spaniards were severally defeated. A war was entered into against Antiochus, King of Syria, under several pretences, one of which was, that he had received and protected their old enemy, Hannibal. Antiochus was a bold, powerful, and ambitious prince ; he met Scipio—”

“Protected Hannibal, mamma !” interrupted Anne, “what protection could he want ? his own country ought to have taken care of him after what he had done for her.”

“It ought so, but he met with an ungrateful return from the Carthaginians. He had been obliged to leave his country to avoid being given up to the Romans. Scipio, as I said, met Antiochus, near Magnesia ; the latter was defeated, and glad to make peace with the Romans, by agreeing to give up all his possessions in Eu-

rope, and in Asia on the other side of Mount Taurus, and to deliver up Hannibal. Lucius Scipio conducted this war, with the assistance of his brother, and received the surname of Asiaticus."

"And what became of Hannibal, mamma?"

"That old general was pursued by the Romans with the most inveterate hatred. He had taken shelter with Prusias, King of Bithynia, but his retreat being discovered, Æmilius was sent to demand him. Prusias, fearful of offending the Romans, prepared to obey; upon which, Hannibal, finding no place of safety left, took poison, which he always carried about him, saying, that it was time to relieve the Romans from their terrors. 'There was a time,' he continued, 'when the Romans guarded an enemy from poison; now they seek the life of a banished old man, and try to make a prince break the laws of hospitality.' So ended the life of Hannibal."

"Well might Hannibal say, the Romans were changed, mamma, they were indeed; but Scipio, how did he get on?"

"*He was treated but little better by his countrymen than Hannibal had been. The people brought frivolous charges against him, but*

withdrew them when he reminded them that the day of his trial was the anniversary of his victory at Zama. The charges being repeated, Scipio left Rome in disgust. He lived three years longer in retirement at Linturnum, in Campania, and when he died, ordered the following epitaph to be placed on his tomb:—‘Ungrateful countrymen! even my bones shall not rest among you.’ A second Macedonian war followed, and the king of that country, as well as the King of the Illyrians, were both led in triumph before the Roman generals. Carthage having in the last fifty years again grown rich, and in some measure recovered its former strength, once more excited the jealousy of the Romans. Cato, who had acquired the surname of the Censor—”

“Was he apt to find fault, mamma?”

“He was anxious to discover and correct faults, my love, not only in others but in himself. Strictly attached to Roman discipline, he forgot the changes which had taken place in his country, or only remembered them to rail against them. He was devoted to his country, and thought he was serving it in bringing about the destruction of Carthage, which rivalled it in power. In this opinion he was joined.”

many senators, and vainly opposed by Scipio Nasica, who wisely considered, that Rome, once become superior to all other cities in the world in power, would grow careless and idle. The entire and total destruction of Carthage was resolved upon, and a pretence for war was soon discovered in the Carthaginians having defended themselves against Masinissa, a friend of the Romans, who had made incursions into their country. This the Romans chose to consider as breaking the treaty."

"How very unjust, mamma ; defending themselves was not making war upon, or attacking ; but pray go on."

"War was accordingly declared, but the Carthaginians, not having made preparations for defending themselves, humbly offered satisfaction. Three hundred hostages were demanded by the Romans, and, contrary to their wishes, they were sent, with an entreaty to know what more was desired. The Romans scarcely knew what should be demanded, but required the Carthaginians to deliver up their arms. This they agreed to ; but the next command roused *even their poor humble spirits to resistance and exertion ; they were ordered to leave their city, that it might be levelled with the ground, th*


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Romans generously permitting them to build another within ten miles of the sea."

"Generously! Oh mamma! but you are joking. What did the poor creatures do?"

"They entreated, even with tears, that the order might be withdrawn, but finding all vain, they determined to suffer every thing in defence of their city and their homes. They now saw but too late the folly of trusting in and caring for riches alone. Their gold and silver plate, their magnificent decorations, in which they had so prided themselves, were melted down to make arms, since they had given up all their iron; the women gave up their ornaments, and even cut off their long hair for bow strings. So united and so resolved, although they had given up so much, you will not be surprised to hear that for some time they held out against the Romans, repulsing them with incredible bravery. At last Scipio, the second Africanus, seduced the master of the horse to his side, and from that time went on successfully. Having driven the inhabitants into the citadel, he secured the isthmus, which led into the sea, and blocked up the harbour, thus preventing them from receiving provisions. With immense labour the Carthaginians cut a fresh passage into

the sea, but notwithstanding their efforts, the army was subdued, and the citadel yielded. The temple alone remained, defended by a few, who, at last, with desperate fury set fire to it and perished in the flames. So large, we are told, was this magnificent city, that it was twenty-four miles round, and the burning continued seventeen days. The senate ordered that it should not be rebuilt; this was not strictly attended to, yet at the present day it is hardly known where Carthage stood. Such was the end of the third and last Punic War. In the same year, and upon a trifling pretence, Corinth, one of the finest cities in Greece, was also taken and destroyed by the Romans, and Spain was subdued. So great was the terror they excited, that the Numantians when besieged, in order to escape falling into their hands, set fire to their city and perished in the flames.




CHAPTER XI.

"I HAVE already informed you," said Mrs. Stratton, as her children seated themselves by her, "that the wealth acquired by the Romans in their immense conquests had produced luxury of all kinds, and a continued indulgence in luxury naturally produces vice. The two Gracchi were the first who tried to stop the corruption of the great. They revived the Licinian law."

"But who were they, mamma?"

"Their mother, Cornelia, was the daughter of Scipio Africanus. She was a Roman matron of great virtue, and had educated her children with the greatest care."



"Mamma," said Philip, "you will relate the well-known anecdote of her jewels, will you not?"

"I will, my dear. A Campanian lady, who had called upon Cornelia to display a splendid set of jewels, which the latter obliged her by admiring greatly, in return requested a sight of the jewels possessed by Cornelia. Cornelia did not give any particular answer, until her children returned from school, when leading them to the lady, 'here, madam,' she exclaimed, 'are the only jewels I possess, and of which I am more proud than I should be of the most splendid set of diamonds.'"

"Ah, mamma! Cornelia was not the only mother who considered her children her most valuable jewels. We could name one now living, could we not, Philip, who gives up her own pleasures to amuse them, who sacrifices her own health to nurse them in sickness, who spends her money, and even her time—"

"That these jewels may be highly polished and well set," continued Philip warmly; "and I hope," he added, "that they may not, like false *gems*, lose their brilliancy by time, but may always reflect lustre upon the hand which formed them in ——— beauty."

"I doubt not that they will, my children," said Mrs. Stratton, "though they are not likely to be as brilliant as were the jewels of Cornelia. We shall, however, be satisfied if our English gems dispense their brightness in their little circle of home. At any rate, if they do not acquire the renown, they may be spared the sufferings of the Gracchi. As the efforts of these men are so differently represented by historians, I shall not dwell upon their history, but merely say, that through the exertions of Tiberius Gracchus, the law was restored, and he lost his life in supporting it."

"But how can there be a difference of opinion, mamma? the senate had agreed to the law, and surely no one could be wrong in supporting a law until it be proved a bad one."

"Your reasoning seems just, Anne, but it is nevertheless true, that in some histories you will find the conduct of the Gracchi called sedition; in others it is spoken of as great patriotism. What their real motives were we cannot now discover. They both practised every virtue, and possessed great talents. Tiberius, the eldest, is said to have been too fond of power, but on which ever side we examine the conduct of the younger brother, Caius Gracchus, we seem

have difficulty in finding any thing to blame. The fame of his good qualities had spread so far, that the king of Numidia, in sending a present of coin to the Romans, declared it was a tribute to the virtues of Caius Gracchus. Numberless were the public works performed by his exertions ; but, as he rose in the opinion of the people, for whose good he seemed to exist, he fell in that of the senate, and open war was declared between them. Gracchus fell in the conflict ; some say he, finding all hopes of safety over, persuaded his slave to kill him, which, being done, he would not survive his master. By others it is believed, that he was destroyed, together with his slave, who had so strictly embraced his master, that his enemies' swords could only reach his body through that of his faithful follower."

"Poor Cornelia, mamma, sad must she have felt from the excessive brightness of her jewels. Do you know any thing more about her."

"It is said, Anne, that she assisted her sons in their endeavours for the public good, and that after they had lost their lives, she spoke of them *and their actions* with calm admiration. A statue was erected to her, with this inscription : — *Cornelia, the Mother of the Gracchi.* During

these dissensions, the Roman arms were successful abroad. The Balearic Isles were subdued."

"Majorca and Minorca you mean, mamma."

"Yes, my love, the group of islands of which they form part ; the country of the Allobroges, now Savoy, Gallia Narbonensis, which now forms part of France, and several other nations were subdued. Jugurtha, king of Numidia, was also conquered. This prince had been brought up by his uncle, a king of that country, who, dying, left two sons. Jugurtha murdered the eldest, but the second escaped to Rome, and entreated the protection of the senate. Jugurtha, knowing the present character of the Romans, immediately sent ambassadors, with large presents, to be distributed amongst the senators. It was soon after determined that Jugurtha should keep one half of the kingdom, and give up the other to his cousin Adherbal, who, however, soon fell into the power of Jugurtha, and, like, his unfortunate brother, was murdered. The Roman people complained of this treachery, but the senate, who had been bribed to silence, were long in taking any active steps for punishing it. *At last the consul was sent against Jugurtha ; but he also was bribed into making terms for*

peace. Still more enraged than before, the people at last obtained a decree that Jugurtha should be summoned to Rome, to discover who had taken bribes. He obeyed the command, but distributed still larger sums of money amongst those in power, and was soon ordered to leave the city. Looking back upon it as he passed the gates, he is said to have exclaimed, 'O Rome, how readily wouldst thou sell thyself, if any man were rich enough to purchase thee.' Troops were again sent to oppose him in Africa, but without success, until Metellus, the consul, by his skill and integrity, regained the credit the former generals had lost. In two years, Jugurtha, having been overthrown in several battles, was obliged to beg a peace. One of the conditions offered him was, that he should surrender himself to the Romans. This being refused, the treaty was broken off. The victory seemed certainly on the side of Metellus, could the term of his command, which was over, be lengthened. This he entreated, but was disappointed in obtaining it by his lieutenant Marius, who, forgetting that it was to Metellus that he owed *his own* advancement, ungratefully resolved to obtain the command for himself, and *unceeded in doing so*. Being an excellent sol-

dier, he overthrew the Numidians and their allies in two engagements, and Jugurtha, who had taken refuge with Bocchus, king of Mauritania, his father-in-law, was, by that prince, given up to the Romans. He was carried in chains to Rome, and, having walked in the triumph of the conqueror, was starved to death in prison."

"Then I see, mamma, that punishment does sometimes follow wickedness in this world ; Jugurtha was indeed a hateful character, and you might well say the Romans were changed. I can scarcely believe I am hearing the history of the same people."

"It is sad to think of it, Anne ; but to continue. Marius, who had the honour of being the conqueror of Jugurtha, although he only finished what Metellus began, was originally a day labourer, but, possessing extraordinary strength and activity, with great courage and ability in war, had, through the interest of Metellus, been made a tribune of the people. On his return from Africa, he was made consul five times successively, contrary to the law, which required an interval of ten years between every consulship. During that time, he overthrew the Cimbri and Teutones, and, by his arts, Metellus

went into banishment. A war, called the Social War, was commenced with Rome by the Italian states, who had for some time been endeavouring to procure the freedom of Roman citizens, by means of Drusus and others. Drusus being assassinated, they took up arms to obtain their wishes. After the war had continued two years, the senate brought it to a conclusion, by giving the freedom of the city to such states as had not revolted, and promising it to those that should first lay down their arms. Sylla had the chief honour in this war, and, for his services, was appointed to the government of Asia Minor. This general had served under Marius, and, by degrees had become his rival in glory, and wish for power. Sylla was of a noble family, his person was handsome, and his pleasing manners enabled him to gain the affection of every one. A war had been entered into with Mithridates, the most powerful monarch of the East. He was master of Cappadocia, Bithynia, Thrace, Macedon, and all Greece, and the Romans easily found a pretence for attacking him. Whether Marius or Sylla should have the command of the army against him excited *great anxiety and jealousy*. At last it was *decided in favour of the latter*, and dreadful were

the disturbances, riot, and bloodshed which took place. Marius obtained a change in his favour, upon which Sylla marched to Rome with his army, and compelled Marius and his party to fly. He even made it lawful for any one to kill them. He then settled every thing as he thought proper in Rome, and set out against Mithridates, having first caused the goods of the proscribed persons to be confiscated."

"Mamma, I know that the being proscribed means something bad, but I hardly know what. Confiscated is being taken away, is it not?"

"Yes, being seized for the use of the state. A person proscribed is one who is under sentence of death, and cannot appear, for fear of suffering it from the hands of any one who may choose to inflict it. The word is sometimes applied to persons who, for some reason or other, are obliged to conceal themselves, in which sense you may have heard it. The word proscription relates to those times of confusion when, the laws being overturned, those in power destroyed without mercy the persons who had incurred their hatred."

"Dreadful, mamma; but surely these proscriptions did not often take place."

"Too often, my dear Anne, as you will see

when you read a detailed account of the history of Rome. I mentioned that Marius was obliged to flee from Rome; he was now seventy years of age, and his personal courage had enabled him to overcome the most unheard of dangers. He was a whole night hidden in a marsh, up to his middle in wet earth; the next morning he was discovered, and taken to a neighbouring town with a halter round his neck, and sent to prison. The governor sent a slave to kill him, but no sooner did he enter the place where he was, than Marius sternly asked, whether he dared to kill Caius Marius. Astonished and terrified, the man threw away his sword, declaring he could not destroy him. The governor, in consequence, set him at liberty. He afterwards landed in Africa, where he is said to have rested himself amongst the ruins of Carthage. He spent a winter at sea, and continued his wanderings, until he heard that Cinna had obtained the consulship, and was raising a party against Sylla. Upon this, he returned to Rome with his son, and was met on the road by Cinna, whose party had been obliged to yield to that of *the other consul*, who was in the interest of *Sylla*. Together they besieged Rome, which *was at last obliged* to admit them, after having

in vain tried to make them promise that they would only inflict death as the laws dictated. They were the most powerful, and they entered Rome at the head of their troops. A dreadful slaughter followed. Men, women, and children were destroyed without mercy. At last, tired of the work of blood, Marius and Cinna were together made consuls, a month after which the former died, leaving none to regret him. Sylla, in the mean time, had made peace with Mithridates, upon conditions honourable to Rome, and prepared to return to Italy. He was opposed by Cinna and young Marius without effect. Cinna was killed by an unknown person, and Sylla landed at Brundisium, where he was met by Pompey and others, who had escaped the proscriptions of Marius. The state of Italy was now dreadful indeed ; civil war raged in every part in its greatest fury. Sylla, was, however, eventually successful, young Marius was killed at the taking of Praeneste, in which city he was besieged, and Sylla entered Rome at the head of his army. His cruelty exceeded even that of Marius ; eight thousand of his countrymen, it is said, were shut up in one building, and there butchered. While he was haranguing

the senate, the cries of these poor wretches being heard, he begged the senators would not make themselves uneasy, as the noise only proceeded from some criminals he had ordered to be executed."

"And could the Romans, the generous, brave Romans, remain in such a dreadful state? surely they must rouse themselves and punish such a wretch."

"I shall not dwell upon these cruelties, which were beyond belief. Sylla was made, or made himself, Perpetual Dictator, which secured to him absolute power for his life. For three years he exercised it in the most capricious manner possible. He obliged Pompey to give up his wife, and marry his own step-daughter; but Julius Cæsar, whose life had been saved with great difficulty, chose rather to leave his country than to give up the wife he loved, at the command of the dictator. The people now found themselves without even the shadow of power; but what was their astonishment, when, at the end of three years, Sylla gave up the dictatorship, and came forward, offering to stand a public trial for his conduct. Fear or surprise *prevented any one* from appearing against him.

and he retired into the country, where, after a very short time, he died of a most disgusting complaint."

"But what could be his reason, mamma, for laying down what he had laboured for with so much cruelty and difficulty?"

"The real intentions and feelings of Sylla cannot possibly be known now, Anne. His actions are all we have to judge by; and taking these into consideration, we cannot suppose that humility, or any other good feeling, actuated him. However that might be, with Sylla's death the civil war was not ended. Sertorius headed what had been his party in Spain, and behaved with so much moderation, justice, and clemency, that he might have baffled Pompey's attempts to subdue him, had not Perpenna, one of his lieutenants, invited him to a sumptuous entertainment; where, intoxicating his attendants, he treacherously murdered Sertorius. Perpenna was soon after conquered by Pompey; when, in hopes of saving his life, he gave up the papers that had belonged to Sertorius, amongst which were letters from many of the chief men in Rome."

"Oh, mamma, I hope Pompey did not reward such a traitor."

“ No, my child ; he behaved very differently : he refused to hear any thing which the wretch had to say against any one, and burned all the letters without reading them. Spartacus, who had headed a body of slaves in Italy, was also subdued ; and it was now hoped that peace would be restored once more : but other parties rose, which excited as much commotion as the former had done. We will, however, talk of them to-morrow. Now run into the garden and amuse yourselves.”

CHAPTER XII.

" I HOPE, mamma, you are ready ; for after what you mentioned last night of Pompey, I expect to be much interested in him."

" Perhaps you will, Anne ; but the history of Rome is no longer the record of splendid actions, but of notorious crimes. At the time we are speaking of, Pompey and Crassus were the two most powerful men in the state : the first was a celebrated general ; the second, the richest man in Rome. Secretly jealous of each other, they shewed they were so by refusing to disband their armies. Each tried to obtain the favour of the people, but by a different method. Pompey restored their power by annulling the laws which Sylla had procured against them. Crassus gave entertainments to the mob ; dis-

tributed corn amongst them, and gave dinners to the lower classes of people. A number of pirates at this time infesting the Mediterranean, a law was made creating Pompey admiral for three years, which gave him a degree of power, and might have been dangerous to his country, had he not possessed a greater desire for glory than a love of ruling. Having thus acquired a command over the fleet, he soon cleared the sea of these intruders; not by destroying them, but by removing them to a distance, where he gave them lands. Pompey's success was so agreeable to the Tribunes, that they gave him the government of Asia, and made him commander of the armies which were sent against Mithridates, who was joined by Tigranes, king of Armenia. This prince was weak and vain: he obliged the kings whom he conquered to attend him as his slaves; he called himself monarch of all monarchies; and his quarrel with the Romans, and union with Mithridates, arose from the Roman general not giving him all his titles. Mithridates, on the contrary, was bold and warlike. Possessing great riches and extensive dominions, he for some time successfully opposed the Romans armies. The good fortune, however, of Pompey prevailed; Mithri-

dates was betrayed by his own son, and obliged to shut himself up in his own palace. His son prevented his departure, and sent him word that death was all that remained to him. The unhappy old king, with many of his followers, immediately took poison, in order to avoid falling into the hands of the Romans. Tigranes was treated much in the same way by his son, but Pompey refused his assistance in ill treating his father, and, upon his continuing his undutiful conduct, he confined him until he was sent to Rome. Tigranes was treated kindly by Pompey, who obliged him to pay a sum of money, but restored the greatest part of his dominions to him. Pompey continued his march, and crossed Mount Taurus. Darius, King of Media, and Antiochus, King of Syria, were conquered by him. The King of Parthia submitted to him, and Syria and Pontus became Roman provinces. Entering Judea, he sent for Aristobulus, the usurping high priest, to appear before him; this was refused, and Aristobulus fortified the temple against him. At the end of three months the temple was taken, and 12,000 Jews slain. Though Pompey entered the sacred temple with a reverential awe, yet his curiosity led him to see the holy of holies."

“That was behind the curtain, where none but the high priest was permitted to enter, was it not, mamma?”

“Yes, Anne; but he showed much respect for the place, and would not touch any of the treasures kept there. He, however, restored Hyrcanus to the priesthood, carrying Aristobulus with him to grace his triumph at Rome. This triumph was the most magnificent ever seen at Rome: the son of Tigranes, the sister of Mithridates, with Aristobulus, were in the train of the conqueror. The treasures brought home were enormous. During this time, a conspiracy in the state was formed, by one Cataline, a man of great courage and abilities, but of depraved character. Knowing that his fortune could not be made worse, he determined to revenge himself for not being chosen consul, instead of Cicero. Joined by some others as bad as himself, it was determined that a general rising should take place in Italy, that Rome should be set fire to in several places, and that, in the confusion, the senators should be massacred and the citadel seized. Cicero was *to be the first* destroyed, but, fortunately, the *plot was discovered* to him before it was quite *ready for execution*. The elegant speech in

which Cicero accused Cataline of his wickedness, before the senate, still exists, and that bad man, finding he could not excuse himself, left Rome, determining to begin his proceedings before the senate should be prepared to oppose him. Many of the conspirators remaining in Rome, Cicero proposed that they should be seized before they had time to escape; and a debate ensued as to what punishment should be inflicted upon them, between several celebrated characters. Julius Cæsar wished them to be confined for life. Cato was for putting them to death. These two men are said both to have loved their country, and studied its interests; but for different reasons, Cæsar wished to rule it. Cato loved it, because he thought it more free than any other. Cæsar was mild and merciful, Cato proud and severe; it was not likely that two such opposite characters should agree. The opinion of Cato prevailed, and the prisoners were strangled. Cataline, in the mean time, had raised an army, and was resolved to defend himself to the last, but troops being sent against him, he and his party were all cut to pieces. Public thanks were given by *the senate* to Cicero, by whose advice and good management the city had been saved, and b

was styled the father of his country ; and, what now was an extraordinary event, the people approved of what the senate had done. I before told you, that Pompey and Crassus each aimed at taking the lead in Rome. This aim naturally produced jealousy and dissension between them, and, as is often the case, when people quarrel, a third person reaped the fruit of their labours. Julius Cæsar had commanded in Spain, where he had gained both riches and glory : on his return he determined to benefit by the differences of Pompey and Crassus. He began his operations by bringing them together, and, having set before them the advantages which must arise from a reconciliation, he procured one. A union was thus formed between Pompey, Cæsar, and Crassus, by which they agreed that nothing should take place in the state without their approbation. This was a new form of government introduced. This union was called the first triumvirate. Cæsar being made consul, endeavoured to procure the favour of the people by every means in his power. He had several laws passed in their favour, and took the whole power into his own hands. To *secure Pompey* in his interest, he gave him his *daughter Julia* in marriage, who, by her talent

and amiable qualities, kept up the friendship of her father and husband. He next proposed to his colleagues in power to divide the provinces between them; consequently, it was decided that Crassus, whose wish was to increase his wealth, should have Syria. Cæsar secured to himself, for five years, the provinces of Gaul, many nations of which were still unsubdued; and Pompey chose Spain, where he knew the business could be done by a deputy, while he reposed himself in the pleasures of Rome. Before Cæsar went into his government, he obtained the banishment of Cicero, fearing that his watchful eye would prevent any schemes against the freedom of his country taking effect. At the same time Cato, another true patriot, was sent into Cyprus, under pretence of doing him honour, but in reality to remove him from Rome. Cæsar now departed for Gaul, where the Helvetians, now the Swiss, were the first people who submitted to his arms. He next defeated the Germans, the Belgæ, who inhabited Holland, the Nervians, the Celtic Gauls, the Suevi, in short, all the nations from the Mediterranean to the English Channel; from hence he passed into Britain, whose inhabitants, though naked and undisciplined, resisted bravely.

ly, but were at last obliged to sue for peace ; thus, in less than nine years, he conquered all the countries from the German Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, including Britain, and is said to have taken eight hundred cities, subdued three hundred different states, and overcome three millions of men."

"Oh, mamma ! it is dreadful to think of—it was butchery, not bravery."

"Anne," exclaimed Philip, "you must not accuse Cæsar of cruelty, his love of war was a vice of his time, and of his religion, neither of which taught him better ; but he possessed a virtue of his own, for his humanity to the conquered equalled his bravery."

"Indeed, dear Philip, I am glad to hear that, yet it seems odd that a man of humanity should fight so continually in the manner he is described as doing."

"You forget, my dear Anne, that ideas of duty will teach us to overcome natural feeling ; added to which, Cæsar was ready to make any sacrifices to obtain power."

"While Cæsar was thus pursuing his conquests abroad, Pompey was strengthening his *interest at home* ; and the fame acquired by the *former began to excite his jealousy* ; he now

perceived that he had been the means of raising a rival to a high pitch of glory. But whatever the secret feelings of each might be, as long as Julia lived, they were smothered; for, wife to one and daughter to the other, that amiable woman did all in her power to keep them friends. Her death, and that of Crassus, who was killed in a war with the Parthians, dissolved their union."

"Mamma, I read that Crassus, a very avaricious man, was killed by being made to swallow molten gold. Was this the same?"

"Yes, it is said the Parthians took that means of putting him to death, in consequence of his avarice and love of that metal. Every tie being now broken which united these two rivals, their jealousy broke out openly. Cæsar, in order to try what power he had, applied for the consulship, which was refused. The senate, which was devoted to Pompey, and which foresaw the danger of Cæsar continuing to command so large an army, composed of soldiers all strongly attached to him, first demanded some of his troops to send against the Parthians, and then recalled Cæsar from his government. The friends of Cæsar urged that Cæsar was ready to give up his command, if Pompey would do the

same. The senate refused to agree to this compromise, when Cæsar wrote to ask for the government of Illyria, with two legions. This request was also refused, when Cæsar drew his troops towards Italy ; stopping at Ravenna, a city in Cisalpine Gaul, from whence he wrote again to the senate, offering to resign his command if Pompey would do the same, but threatening, if he were refused, to march to Rome, and to punish the authors of the injustice done to him. Enraged at this, the senate ordered Pompey to take up arms to defend the commonwealth. Some of Cæsar's friends fled in disguise as slaves, to give him this information in his camp. These persons he showed to his troops, relating the injustice of the senate and his own injuries. His soldiers at once, with loud cheers, declared they were ready to follow wherever he should lead them, and to die with him or revenge his wrongs. This was what Cæsar wished, and he set out to follow a part of his army, that he had sent forwards to Ariminium. Sometimes walking, at others riding, before day-break he overtook his friends near to the Rubicon."

"The RUBICON at last," exclaimed Anne, with delight ; " but pray go on."





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"The Rubicon, now called Rugone, was a small river, rising in the Appenines, and falling into the Adriatic ; it divided Italy from Gaul, and bounded Cæsar's command. This river was considered by the Romans as the limit of their domestic empire ; and an edict had been long before made by the senate, which is still to be seen engraven in the road near Rimini, by which they considered any person a parricide, and devoted him to the infernal gods, who should dare to pass this river with troops. When Cæsar reached its banks, he stopped for a few moments, as if to consider what he should do.— 'If I pass this river,' he exclaimed to one of his generals, 'what misery I shall bring upon my country ; if I stop, I am ruined.' He then plunged in, saying, 'The die is cast ;' and his soldiers followed him."

"Well now, Anne," said Philip, "you understand why commencing an enterprise from which you cannot draw back, is compared to passing the Rubicon, and the expression commonly used."

"I see why it is used, certainly, Philip, and I shall understand the meaning of the expression ; *but I think there are very few circumstances in which it is fair to use a spe*

under such very peculiar circumstances. But I hope, dear mamma, you do not mean to leave me in suspense, as to what took place after Cæsar was followed by his soldiers across this interesting river."

"For the present I do, my love ; for I shall be much engaged for some time to come, and unable to attend to you at this hour as usual. Hereafter I may, if you still continue to wish it, complete this Sketch of Roman History ; but I think it very possible that you may have the pleasure of reading a more detailed account shortly, when you will cease to desire mine."

THE END.

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Selected from Dr. Blair.

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